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LD1801140889 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Three Arab youths died on 17 January as a result of clashes with the IDF in the territories, Jerusalem radio reported.

Two were shot dead during disturbances, while one died in a hospital after being wounded in a riot 10 days previously.

The radio also cited reports that over 10 other people were wounded in clashes with soldiers.

In a related development, the authorities closed down 7 West Bank high schools, bringing to 33 the total number of schools closed during the past week, the radio reported.

In remarks carried by the radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned that schools will be closed if they are used for stonethrowing.

He also disclosed that NCO's have been authorized to use plastic bullets against stonethrowers "caught in the act or running away" and that measures will be taken against their parents and property.

According to HA'ARETZ, the measures will include the demolition of houses belonging to the families of stonethrowers who cause casualties.

The paper said the IDF will use more snipers and will be authorized to fire at demonstrators who have not engaged in stonethrowing.

The Judaea and Samaria Council, which represents settlers in the West Bank, criticized the defense establishment's new measures as "too little, too late," according to Jerusalem radio.

One group of settlers associated with the Kakh Movement has proclaimed its intention of establishing a separate "State of Judaea" if the IDF withdraws from the territories, THE JERUSALEM POST noted.

On the government's expected peace initiative, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told a Knesset committee that Israel does not have to steadfastly adhere to all its past positions, Jerusalem radio reported.

In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reaffirmed his willingness to agree to direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general, provided there is no UN interference with the content of the talks.

Libya

A decision by the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU) to stage a 1-week boycott of U.S. facilities at Arab airports and ports was strongly praised by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television.

The ICATU stand is "unforgettable" and "restores the standing of the Arab nation," he told a visiting ICATU delegation.

Noting his previous declaration that Libya will meet "challenge with challenge," Al-Qadhdhafi said he did not thereby challenge the United States with military force, but "with you," the Arab nation.

Libya has no aircraft carrier with which to confront U.S. carriers and missiles, he pointed out, adding the U.S. fleet is withdrawing from the "Libyan sea" as result of the will and international stand of the Arab nation, not as a result of Libyan military power.

The Libyan leader also warned that a U.S. attack on Al-Rabitah would be "like striking Hiroshima" because it would produce the same desire for revenge as that of the Japanese Red Army, which intends to "detonate atomic bombs" in the United States in the future.

Iraq

Iraq does not produce "biological" weapons and does not need them, an Information Ministry spokesman declared in a statement cited by INA 18 January.

Denying reports that Iraq has received a warning from the "Zionist enemy" about the latter's intention to attack a factory producing biological weapons, the official stressed that Iraq will strongly reject any such warning if received.

He warned Israel against harboring the illusion that it can mount another operation like the 1981 raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor.

Iran

Musavi Tour—Before U.S. President-elect George Bush deals with the hostages problem he should "first try to solve his country's problems with Lebanon," Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated at a Rome news conference reported by Tehran radio.

Commenting on Iraq's decision to release Iranian POW's, Musavi declared that Iran will "probably" release POW's in response.

Following his visit to Rome, Musavi flew to Warsaw where he was received by President Wojciech Jaruzelski and other Polish officials, IRNA reported.

Rafsanjani on Afghanistan—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted that the Afghan mujahidin should show "more prudence" in order to capitalize on their achievements.

He was addressing a group of visiting mujahidin leaders, IRNA noted.

Prisoners Released—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has pardoned 110 imprisoned soldiers, according to IRNA, and 113 others have been freed to mark the 10th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

Gulf Affairs

Bahrain's Ministry of the Interior revealed that a fishing boat hit a mine northeast of Bahrain 18 January killing the captain, according to WAKH.

Omani Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari arrived in Moscow 15 January on the first visit by an Omani official since diplomatic relations between the two countries were established, the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD reported.

Afghanistan

Food Shortages—Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov condemned attempts by Afghan opposition groups to impose an economic blockade on Kabul, TASS reported.

He disclosed that the mujahidin have blocked the main highway in Vardaq Province thus depriving Kabul of a "substantial" part of its flour and butter supplies.

Military Situation—Eight Arab and Pakistani "advisers" were killed during mopping-up operations in Paktia Province, according to Kabul radio.

Military operations in Nangarhar Province resulted in the killing of more than 70 "extremists."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Exchanges Messages With Gorbachev

JN1701174389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, exchanged messages with Soviet leader Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev.

This took place during Brother Abu 'Ammar's reception last night of Comrade Vladimir Buljakov, head of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, who delivered President Gorbachev's message. Brother Abu 'Ammar also asked Comrade Buljakov to convey a reply.

During the meeting, they discussed the political stand in light of the successive developments in the international arena regarding the Palestine question and the possibilities of achieving a just and permanent peace in the Middle East within the framework of the international conference.

Comrade Buljakov affirmed the Soviet principled stands in supporting the just national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the right to self-determination and establishing an independent Palestinian state. He also presented the Soviet leadership's evaluation of the PLO's great political achievements stemming from the basic transformations brought about by the courageous popular uprising in the occupied homeland.

In the name of the Soviet leadership, he praised the wise administration of the Palestinian policies practiced by the Palestinian leadership under Brother Abu 'Ammar.

Brother Abu 'Ammar explained to the Soviet delegation the situation in the occupied territories and the developements in the uprising which embodies the Palestinian determination to continue the struggle until the national aims of our people are achieved and an independent Palestinian state is established on Palestinian territory.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also presented the political developments dealing with the Palestine question and the Middle East while praising the Soviet-Palestinian relationship. He characterized this relationship as being based on mutual and deep understanding. Brother Abu 'Ammar added it will continue on all levels to provide true possibilities of just peace within the framework of an international conference.

On the Soviet side, the meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador and embassy staff in Tunis.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by the brothers PLO Executive Committee members Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Sulayman al-Najjab, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Mahmud Darwish; Brother Nabil 'Amru, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Moscow; and Brother Hakam Bal'awi, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Tunis.

Palestinian Source on 'Secret' U.S.-PLO Talks

JN1801090289 Amman SAWT-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jan pp 12, 16

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—A responsible Palestinian source has disclosed that secret meetings and sessions were held in Tunis during the last few days between Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, and a number of PLO Executive Committee members.

A Palestinian source told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the discussion during the meeting focused on the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The source expected the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to be resumed after the new U.S. President assumes office in the White House.

The source announced that during the secret meetings, viewpoints were also exchanged on the crime of the Pan Am crash over Scotland last month whose brutality against innocent passengers perturbed world public opinion in general and American public opinion in particular.

On another development, the source asserted that the recent meetings of the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis were important and were held in an atmosphere of optimism, satisfaction, and appreciation for the stands of Jordan and the Arab states toward the Palestine question.

The source said these pan-Arab stands were expressed during the visits of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and his meetings with His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government, and other Arab leaders who affirmed to 'Arafat their absolute support for the Palestinian move in the international arena calling for just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Khalid al-Hasan on U.S.-Palestinian Relations

JN1701074089 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Jan 89 p 1, 23

[Text] Cairo—Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has affirmed that the PLO has not provided the U.S. authorities with information on the identity of those responsible for blowing up the U.S. plane.

He said PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had indicated his readiness to help and cooperate on this issue. However, there is a difference between cooperation and providing services.

In an exclusive interview with AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Al-Hasan said: The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in the coming stage after Bush assumes power in the U.S. Administration will continue. Its main aim will be to explore the opinions and understand the true nature of the stands and directions of all the sides.

He added that widening the scope of this dialogue and enlarging it to include more comprehensive issues in the peace process is a wager on the practical results reached by the two sides of the dialogue.

Al-Hasan said it is too early to envision the ideas and concepts that will define the strategy of the U.S.-Palestinian relationship in the coming stages.

On the possibility that this dialogue will turn into U.S.-Palestinian negotiations to set the formula of a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question, Al-Hasan said:

Any discussion on formulating the issue of comprehensive peace should take place only through an international conference. Therefore, changing or developing the dialogue into U.S.-Palestinian negotiations is not proposed at the present stage because it will not be practical. What is required now is to reach a mutual understanding through becoming acquainted with the points of dispute and agreement in the stands and opinions. This is what the continuous dialogue between Washington and the PLO is actually achieving.

In his statements, Al-Hasan ruled out the possibility of expanding this dialogue to include ranking U.S. officials and said the official contact up till now has taken place through the U.S. ambassador in Tunis.

In answer to a question on his expectations of dealing with the new U.S. Administration under Bush, Al-Hasan said it is possible there will be new U.S. tactics to push the peace process in the Middle East forward and give it priority and importance since he has formulated a new style of dealing with the Palestine question. This stems from our conviction that U.S. President Bush is experienced and largely knowledgeable on the dimensions of the Palestine question. His secretary of state, James Baker, also has a tendency to be independent, which can help crystallize the new U.S. position.

Al-Hasan added: Despite all this, we can safely say it is too early to assume these political judgments before Bush assumes office and before we become acquainted with the new ideas he will propose on dealing with the Palestine question—ideas he has postponed declaring until he moves into the White House.

Al-Hasan denied reports he may visit Washington to meet with a number of U.S. political figures and members of Congress. He said he has not received any official invitation to visit the United States. He indicated, however, that he meets periodically with some U.S. congressmen in different places.

After that, Al-Hasan explained the scenario proposed by Shamir's government through what is claimed to be a new peace plan in the region.

He said: The Israeli scheme is not a peace plan but will present a capitulationist plan in a new form. The aim of this will be to exploit the time factor to eliminate the idea among the world's nations that Israel does not want peace and that it is refusing a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement in the region. Shamir is at the same time fishing in murky waters for any errors and negative points by the Palestinians to change world public opinion supporting the PLO after 90 countries have recognized the Palestinian state.

Al-Hasan said the PLO knows these capitulationist schemes and plans proposed by Shamir. Therefore, we are working within a state of comprehensive political mobilization to explain the strategies of the Palestinian stand stemming from the PNC resolutions in Algiers. We are also working to gain more supporters to develop the international stand in our favor and avoid landing in any situations that do not serve our strategic aims. Al-Hasan explained in his statement that any Israeli plan to be submitted by Shamir to U.S. President-elect Bush or to the world states that does not stress Israel's consent to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 and its recognition of the Palestinian state, the right to self-determination, and an international peace conference will be a plan rejected by the PLO.

In his statement to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Al-Hasan revealed new information which has not yet been confirmed. This information is that Israel will refuse to receive the Greek foreign minister who is scheduled to visit Israel within an EEC delegation including the foreign ministers of France, Spain, and Greece.

This Israeli stand will be in response to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Athens last week at the official invitation of its government. This, in Khalid al-Hasan's opinion, reflects the political confusion suffered by the Shamir government following the repercussions of the great successes scored by the PLO political assault and the significant changes in the European and international stand resulting from the continued popular uprising in the occupied territories.

Replying to a question on the appropriate time for a Jordanian-PLO dialogue on a confederation formula, Al-Hasan said: The current circumstances impose priorities on the Palestinian political move. When we find the appropriate time for raising the issue of confederation with Jordan we will promptly initiate joint action to achieve this objective.

On the results of Saudi and Jordanian contacts and mediations to normalize relations between the PLO and Damascus, Al-Hasan affirmed that no practical results meeting aspirations have appeared yet from the resumption of relations with Damascus and it appears that the political climate promises nothing new.

On the possibilities of announcing the formation of a provisional Palestinian government and whether there are obstacles or differences impeding its formation, Al-Hasan ruled out any problems or differences preventing the formation of a provisional government.

He affirmed that a government will be formed and that it will be announced at the appropriate time which is linked with appropriate regional and international circumstances.

On rumors about an imminent visit by 'Arafat to Moscow, Al-Hasan said Palestinian contacts with the Soviet leadership are intensive and continuous and that there is full coordination with Moscow. However, he said he has no information about a specific date for an imminent visit.

As for the date of the next Arab summit and whether there is a political Palestinian plan to be submitted to this summit, Al-Hasan said Saudi Arabia affirmed that the Arab summit will be held in Riyadh and that intensive contacts are under way to specify a final date for the summit.

He expressed the conviction that this summit will see a wide relaxation in Arab relations. He called for Egypt's return to the meetings of the Arab summit and the Arab League in order to assume its vanguard role in the march of joint Arab action.

Concluding his statement, Al-Hasan said that during his visit to Cairo he held talks with senior Egyptian officials on bolstering future political and diplomatic coordination between Egypt and the PLO.

During his 4-day visit to Cairo to attend a conference on peace prospects in the Middle East, Khalid al-Hasan met with Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser, and a number of senior Egyptian officials.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Holds Meetings

JN1601172089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council held a meeting with the attendance of Brother Abu 'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and the brother members of the Central Committee.

The Council heard detailed reports from Brother Abu 'Ammar and the brother members of the Central Committee on the blessed uprising in the occupied homeland and its political results on the national, regional, and international levels.

The Council evaluated the important political achievements that have come about due to the blessed uprising, the political initiatives taken by the PLO since the last PNC session in Algiers, and the historic speech delivered by Brother Yasir 'Arafat before the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

The Council also evaluated the new and important stands taken by the vast majority of world countries. Ninety-four countries have so far recognized the independent Palestinian state. The Council also discussed the backgrounds and horizons of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which started officially in Tunis.

In addition, they discussed the progressive stands taken by most West Euroepean countries, including Britain and the Netherlands, which have taken the initiative of starting official high-level talks with the PLO.

They also discussed the crystallizing French, Spanish, and Italian stands in addition to the marked development in the Scandinavian countries' stands on the PLO and the Palestine question and the socialist countries' stands, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, as well as those of the PRC, nonaligned nations, and Islamic countries.

The Revolutionary Council also discussed a number of draft resolutions dealing with supporting the uprising in the occupied homeland and providing all reasons and possibilities for its continuation and intensification until it achieves its motto of overthrowing the occupation and achieving liberty and independence. They also discussed a number of proposed measures dealing with the internal situation of Fatah.

PNC Speaker on 'Uprising,' Recognizing Israel

PM1701142189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jan 89 p 3

[Interview with PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Tariq Shadid in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shadid] Many political analysts expect that new international pressures will be exerted in a bid to persuade the Palestinian people to stop their uprising as a condition for commencing negotiations over the Palestinian problem and the excuse will be that Israel will not enter negotiations under the threat of the uprising. What is your comment and what will your position be in this case?

[Al-Sa'ih] The uprising emerged as a result of the tragedies inflicted by the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and as a result of the occupation's various forms

of repressive practices against the Palestinians, including beatings, torture, detention, demolition of homes, and so on. [passage omitted]

But since it is based on total conviction, deep-rooted factors, and firm belief, the uprising is determined to continue until its objectives are achieved; namely, the occupation is eliminated and independence is achieved for the Palestinian people by establishing their own state on their own territory and in their own homeland. We have backed it and its two objectives and announced we will not allow the uprising to stop before these two objectives are achieved.

As for Israel's opposition to the continuation of the uprising, Israel, as is known, neither accepts our existence nor recognizes us. It occupies Palestine as a whole and some other Arab territories and still has more expansionist ambitions.

So we must not link our aims and plans to Israel's approval, but, rather, to the interests of our people, cause, existence, and holy places in our homeland, Palestine.

The uprising's objective was not merely to proclaim the Palestinian state. We seek to enjoy our right to self-determination. How can we exercise such a right under occupation? Thus I tell you: The uprising will continue until its objectives are achieved. It will not submit to any kind of pressure. [passage omitted]

[Shadid] Some researchers and thinkers differ in their interpretation of the essence of the Palestinian problem because confrontation with the Zionist movement has assumed numerous dimensions right from the start. How do you view these differences?

[Al-Sa'ih] I do not believe there are fundamental differences, especially if we look at the conflict as one between two civilizations: the Arab, Islamic civilization and the Zionist, settlement, aggressive civilization. When we Arabs and Muslims realize that the conflict is between two civilizations, we will then realize that our existence depends on setting bounds for the other civilization, because it is corrupt and based on aggression, oppression, and arrogance. Besides, it seeks to annihilate the Palestinian people.

So it is a conflict between two civilizations and must end with the establishment of the truth and the preservation of the existence of the Palestinian people, who lived on this land first as Arabs, before Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and then as Muslims since the prophet's—peace be upon him—midnight journey to this land and the believers' control of it. [passage omitted]

I would say: So long as the occupation stands, the general interest suggests that all forces and elements must agree to confront the occupation. When they succeed in eliminating the occupation, the Palestinian people can then exercise their right to self-determination. The minority will then have to submit to what the majority decides. This is the right way. [Shadid] Within this context, how do you view the two tendencies, one of which says that the jihad must be purely Islamic, whereas the other believes that liberated Palestinian should precede Muslim Palestine?

[Al-Sa'ih] So long as the occupation still stands, and so long as the Jews are still in control, all Palestinian elements and citizens, regardless of their inclinations, must direct their power against the enemy. And when we get rid of him, the Palestinian will then be able to exercise his right to self-determination. Then the minority will submit to the majority's decision, and the majority will also respect the minority's rights. It will not oppress or be hostile to the minority. This is the principle which we have decided on and it fully conforms with Islam. [passage omitted]

[Shadid] What is your reply to the view criticizing PLO recognition of Israel before ensuring Israel's readiness to recognize it?

[Al-Sa'ih] (Waving a booklet on his desk) These are the three documents (the proclamation of independence, the decision to form a government, and the political statement) which the PNC approved at its extraordinary 19th session in Algiers last November.

If you read the political statement carefully, you will find that what some term recognition of the Security Council's resolutions and consequently recognition of the Zionist entity is untrue. [passage omitted]

Listen to the political statement's clause dealing with the Security Council resolutions (242 and 338). What does it say?

"To achieve that, that is, our national rights, the PNC emphasizes the following: The need to convene under UN auspices an effective international peace conference on the Middle East and its crux, the Palestinian problem, in which the Security Council's permanent member states and all the parties concerned, including the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—participate on an equal footing. The international conference will be held on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, guarantees of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights—foremost among which is their right to self-determination in accordance with the the UN Charter's principles and rules on the peoples' right to self-determination—the prevention of the seizure of others' territory by force or military invasion, and UN resolutions on the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

(Shaykh al-Sa'ih continued to read the clause concerning Resolution 181): "Despite the historic injustices inflicted on the Palestinian people by expelling them and denying them the right to self-determination as a result

of General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, which divided Palestine into two states, an Arab state and a Jewish state, that resolution still provides terms for international legitimacy guaranteeing for the Palestinian people the right to sovereignty and national independence."

(Commenting on these clauses) Anyone who says that the decisions we made in Algiers contain recognition of Resolutions 181, 242, and 338 is not right and I urge him to read the clause again.

Greece Urged Not To Recognize Palestinian State

JN1701160489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Greek Government was intending to declare its official recognition of the Palestinian state during Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's latest visit to Athens.

Informed sources in the EEC told AL-ITTIHAD that the British Government held urgent contacts with France to urge it to contact the Greek Government to postpone its recognition of the Palestinian state.

The sources added that Britain warned the EC countries against taking any unilateral steps on the Palestine question, which may lead to deepening differences among the EEC countries. It added that any new European stands on the Palestine question should be coordinated with the United States first.

Malaysia PLO Office Elevated to Embassy Status

BK1201115789 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1116 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Government has decided to elevate the office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) here, to that of Embassy of the State of Palestine, Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Thursday [12 January].

He said the move was in line with the government's recognition of the State of Palestine proclaimed by PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat recently. The PLO's representative here is Ahmad al-Farra.

"The move is yet another reflection of Malaysia's strong and unequivocal support to the just demands of the Palestinians for their inalienable rights of self-determination and independence," Abu Hassan said in a statement.

He said the move would also further contribute to the strengthening of relations and cooperation between the people of both states. He also expressed the hope that the State of Palestine, in all its attributes, would be able to take its proper and rightful place in the community of nations. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Yasir 'Arafat Visit to Finland

For Helsinki Radio accounts of the visit by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Finland, see the Nordic Countries section of the 17 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Egypt

Meeting With Israeli Officials on Tabah 19 Jan

NC1601115489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Abraham Sofaer, U.S. State Department legal adviser, to discuss the final arrangements for the implementation of the International Arbitration Tribunal's ruling on Tabah.

The ruling, which was issued in Geneva on 29 September, was in Egypt's favor over the disputed area of Tabah. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Frank Wisner.

In a statement following the meeting, Ambassador Ibrahim Yusri, head of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, said an agreement had been reached for Egyptian and Israeli teams to meet on Thursday at Tabah to discuss the final procedures for the implementation of the tribunal's ruling as well as other pertinent matters.

He added that Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the UN European Headquarters, will lead the Egyptian team to the talks, while the Israelis will be headed by the director general of their Foreign Ministry. Also present at the talks will be representatives from the Egyptian and Israeli liaison committees.

It is worth noting here that the United States will take part in the forthcoming talks. It also took part, as a full partner, in all the previous negotiations between Egypt and Israel over this issue.

Somali President Barre on Official Visit

Arrives 16 Jan

NC1601130389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Baghdad on an official 3-day visit. President Husni Mubarak received the Somali president on arrival at Cairo International Airport. [passage omitted]

Talks With Mubarak

EA1701204889 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Excerpts] At the Presidency in Cairo today Somali President Muhammad Siad Barre and his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak today began official talks on further strengthening bilateral relations. The talks, which are being held in a warm atmosphere, include discussions on cooperation in education, information, culture, trade, and other areas.

Participating on the Somali side were Comrade Muhammad Siad Barre and his delegation, and the SDR ambassador in Cairo. The Egyptian side was represented by President Mubarak and some ministers. [passage omitted]

Newsmen accompanying the president's delegation say that the two sides are still continuing with the official talks.

More on Official Talks

NC1701133989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning. The two presidents held a closed session. Members of the Egyptian and Somali delegations then joined the meeting. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the two countries have identical views on a number of Arab issues. He added that Presidents Mubarak and Barre underlined during their talks Somalia's desire to maintain a unity of Arab ranks, and the need to continue to exchange views, to coordinate, and to hold consultations between the two countries. He said that the Egyptian-Somali talks dealt with Arab issues, with the Palestinian problem at the forefront of these issues, the Iraqi-Iranian peace talks, and the Lebanese problem in light of Arab changes and international relations.

The information minister said that the Egyptian and Somali delegations under President Mubarak and President Barre discussed a number of international issues in light of the accord and understanding that prevail in the relations between the two superpowers and which create the environment for resolving regional problems.

The two delegations also exchanged views on African issues, including the situation in the Horn of Africa, and the problem of debts. He added that the two delegations reviewed the development in Ethiopian-Somali relations in light of the peace agreement between the two countries and the possibility of resolving problems through diplomatic channels and peaceful means. He underlined Egypt's desire to strengthen this understanding and to boost relations between the two countries on the basis of Egypt's unique relations with Ethiopia and Somalia.

Regarding bilateral relations, Minister al-Sharif said that Presidents Mubarak and Barre praised the historic relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

He added that one of the important issues discussed at the bilateral level was the one of boosting and developing economic relations, trade exchange, and agricultural cooperation. He said that the two delegations discussed the importance of setting up joint projects in the fields of

agricultural development, land reclamation, and development of fisheries resources, and the use of Egyptian expertise in these fields. [passage omitted]

Omani Foreign Minister Makes 2-Day Visit

Arrives 13 Jan

NC1301181589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Yusuf al-'Alawi, Omani minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on a 2-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, Al-'Alawi said he has an oral message for President Mubarak from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman. He added that he will discuss bilateral relations with Egyptian officials and will hear the Egyptian point of view on matters which concern both countries, particularly the Middle East issue, at this particular turning point. [passage omitted]

Meets Mubarak, Makes Statement

NC1401110889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1011 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman will visit Egypt during the summer and meet with President Husni Mubarak. This was announced by Yusuf al-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, after meeting President Husni Mubarak today.

The Omani official said he conveyed an oral message from Sultan Qabus to President Mubarak as part of the exchange of views between the two Arab leaders on issues concerning the Arab nation, particularly at this stage during which Egypt and especially President Mubarak are exerting immense efforts to prepare for an international conference on the Middle East issue.

He added that he had listened to President Mubarak's view on the necessary moves in the forthcoming phase, and that he had briefed the president on the results of the Tunis consultations regarding the Lebanese problem and the situation in the Gulf.

On the Arab summit, Al-'Alawi said that it has been decided to hold this summit conference; however, the date is contingent on the circumstances. Replying to a question on the Omani efforts for Arab reconciliation and whether there is any new development in this respect, he said: In cooperation with the brothers in Egypt, we are making efforts. We believe that there are encouraging signs in this regard.

Commenting on the Libyan foreign minister's statement, which was published by newspapers and in which he asserted the importance of Egypt and its Arab role, the Omani minister said: Any good statement contributes to Arab solidarity.

Departs Cairo 14 Jan

NC1401125489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Yusuf al-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo at noon today at the conclusion of a 1-day visit to Egypt. In a predeparture statement, Al-'Alawi said he had conveyed an oral message from his brother Sultan Qabus of Oman to President Husni Mubarak and that the president had given him a reply to the message. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Security Official Concludes Visit

NC1301162389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1536 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Staff General 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali, Jordanian director of public security, left Cairo this afternoon, following a 3-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Majali said that he held talks with Interior Minister Zaki Badr and Egyptian officials. The two countries signed a protocol on security cooperation and coordination in fighting crime and narcotics. [passage omitted]

Ministry Concludes Survey on Debts to Arabs

JN1401144089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the Ministry of International Cooperation has concluded a comprehensive survey of Egypt's outstanding debts to Arab sources, particularly the Arab financing funds and banks. The survey shows that on 30 June, Egypt's total indebtedness and liabilities to the Arab financial sources reached approximately 11.3 percent of the total volume of foreign indebtedness.

In the report it prepared, the ministry states that the total debt outstanding to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Fund reached 682.99 million [Egyptian] pounds, including 586.25 million pounds original debt and 96.74 million pounds interest. The report also reveals that 833.459 million pounds are outstanding to the Kuwaiti Central Bank; 142.94 million pounds to the Libyan Central Bank, including 89.53 million pounds original debt and 53.41 million pounds interest; and 7.21 million pounds to the Egypt-Iran Development Bank.

IMF Said To Reject Latest Reform Plan

JN1401164089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Jan 89 pp 1, 4

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] Consultations between a senior IMF official who is currently visiting Cairo and senior government officials were conducted yesterday.

AL-WAFD has learned that the senior official expressed the IMF's rejection of the reform plan submitted by Egypt 3 moths ago. The official, who works as an adviser for the IMF, asserted that the IMF board of directors has no intention to agree to Egypt's plan to increase the period of economic reform and not to set fixed dates for the reform steps. The official revealed that the final decision on the plan will be issued within a few days.

Following the arrival of the IMF adviser in Cairo, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi held meetings for 2 days with senior advisers at the Presidency, the Central Bank governor, and the ministers of economy, finance, planning, international cooperation, and administrative reforms.

At these meetings Egypt's position if the Egyptian plan and letter of intentions were rejected were discussed. Also discussed was making a number of important economic decisions in order to show good will to the IMF mission, which is expected to arrive in Cairo in a few days and which will officially inform Egypt of the IMF board of directors' decision. The decision will determine the future of the Egyptian economy during the coming years.

The IMF preliminary mission yesterday reviewed the steps taken by Egypt to reduce the deficit in the current budget. The mission also discussed reports on the collection of taxes and customs during the first 6 months of the state budget.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi is expected to discuss with ministers of the economic group a new economic reform plan and letter of intentions, which the government intends to submit to the IMF mission if an official rejection of the first letter of intentions is received.

AL-WAFD has learned that the major item of the new Egyptian reform plan calls for implementing the urgent reforms within 24 instead of 36 months. The new plan also includes canceling subsidy on governmental services and basic commodities within 24 months from the date of signing the new agreement.

Al-Wafd has also learned that the new letter of intention will include the government's adherence to floating the Egyptian pound within 18 months from the signing of the agreement.

Makramallah on IMF Talks, Economy

JN1501120089 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Jan 89 pp 18, 19

[Interview with Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, by Safa' Luways in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] [Luways] Some affirm that Egypt completed the formulation of a new memorandum of understanding containing the most important economic reforms that Egypt must carry out during the next stage, and that this formula is now being submitted to the IMF Board of Executive Directors in Washington. What are the real reasons behind Egypt's delaying the conclusion of the new memorandum of understanding with the IMF officials?

[Makramallah] Egypt did not prepare a new memorandum of understanding. It only submitted a "memorandum" explaining Egypt's stand on the economic reform steps, and what it could and could not do. This program, which is being discussed by the IMF, outlines the type of reform measures Egypt will implement over the next 5 years.

[Luways] What are the most important new reform measures that Egypt has proposed in this memorandum?

[Makramallah] In this memorandum, we mentioned many reform programs, the most important being the reduction of the deficit in the state's general budget from 22 percent in the 1986/87 budget to 16 or 17 percent in the 1987/88 budget. We seek to achieve this through increased revenues, or the reduction of expenditures. With respect to energy prices, this is not only demanded by the IMF. The World Bank also is making similar demands.

They are asking us to increase energy prices so that they are in line with world prices. Egypt believes that such price increases are not realistic and do not take into account social considerations. The idea of increasing energy prices, in itself, is logical and acceptable but should be considered within certain limits because we cannot adopt any measure that will impose new burdens on those in the low-income bracket in particular, and on the Egyptian people in general.

[Luways] What about the interest rates in force in the banking system, which the IMF has been asking to increase?

[Makramallah] It is well known that interest rates on the Egyptian pound are instrumental in encouraging and increasing savings. But at the same time, it is a burden on investments. Any change in the interest rate structure will affect deposits and loans. This must be taken into account, and we must not increase the interest rate just for the sake of increasing it.

[Luways] Will the interest rate on deposits be increased by 2 percent only, as some have mentioned?

[Makramallah] The IMF representatives have asked for an illogical increase in the interest rate. In their opinion, this increase must be calculated on the basis of the rate of inflation with a specific ratio to be added to it. However, they did not specify how much this ratio should be. What is important is that they are asking for sizeable increases.

With respect to subsidies, the memorandum noted the need to take into consideration social factors before the adoption of any measures that will cancel or amend the policy on subsidies. We believe that we can amend the policy on subsidies in stages and gradually while continuing to subsidize basic commodities, while the IMF calls for the suspension of subsidies all at once. These are the most important points contained in the memorandum that the Egyptian Government had prepared for submission to the IMF.

[Luways] Does the memorandum not contain a clause on the comprehensive standardization of exchange rates, particularly the standardization of the 70 piastres to the dollar adopted by the Central Bank grouping with the exchange rate the free market has with respect to foreign currencies?

[Makramallah] The standardization of exchange rates is connected with subsidies. In general, the free banking market is still active and achieves big successes. The minister of economy has announced that the proceeds of this market have exceeded $5 billion. Thus, the establishment of the free banking market has brought good results.

As for the Central Bank grouping which deals with strategic commodities like sugar, oil, wheat, flour, and tea which are subsidized basic foodstuffs, the government believes that in this field, too, social considerations must be taken into account.

I would like to clarify here that the basic point of difference between Egypt and the IMF is not on the elements of the economic reform program. This is so because it was Egypt which had formulated this program. The difference lies in the timetable for the implementation of these economic reform measures.

[Luways] Is the IMF actually demanding applying these reforms within only 18 months?

[Makramallah] The IMF is not demanding the application of all the reform steps within 18 months. They are, however, demanding their application within the least possible period of time. Egypt believes it is necessary to apply some of these steps over a period of 5 years and others over a period of 7 or 10 years in accordance with the effects resulting from each step and in order to be able to absorb them step by step. This is the reality of the situation between the two sides. Negotiations and discussions are continuing.

I affirm that the IMF has and will not impose any decisions on Egypt. I would like to mention here that we raised the price of petrol last May without any agreement with the IMF. The same applies to issuing the law on investment companies, which was not included in the old memorandum of understanding.

[Luways] What are the latest developments in the negotiations between Egypt and the creditor countries to allow Egypt to enter a new stage of rescheduling its due debts in the period between July 1988 until July or December 1989?

[Makramallah] Usually, Egypt starts negotiations of rescheduling with its creditors upon reaching an agreement with the IMF representatives. Since we have still not reached an agreement with the IMF, then rescheduling is not presently a point of discussion.

It is not necessary that Egypt reschedule its debts within the same framework in which it rescheduled its debts of the first stage where things depended on the agreement between Egypt and the creditor countries, since the Paris Club does not belong to the IMF in which the debtor country meets with the creditor countries.

In this meeting, they negotiate the size of the debts which are to be rescheduled and the time period in which this will take place, as well as the interest rates, repayment period, and time allowed. An agreement on rescheduling Egyptian debts for a period of 1 year or 18 months could be reached. We estimate these debts at approximately 4 billion dollars.

[Luways] It has been rumored in economic circles that Egypt is seeking, through the present stage, to transfer its debts to trade banks and that it is hesitating greatly in reaching an agreement with the mediatory institutions due to the extremely high commission demanded by these institutions. How true is that?

[Makramallah] There are debts between one government and another, that is they are guaranteed by the governments. Such debts are rescheduled in the Paris Club. As for the trade debts, they have a special situation peculiar to them. Some organizations or monetary bodies which work on an international level, even if they are not internationally recognized, attempt to buy these trade debts in exchange for a certain discount. Then they take the place of the creditor banks.

For example: If one side has about 1 billion dollars in unsecured trade debts, these institutions approach the creditor trade banks and start bargaining with them on getting this debt. They pay off approximately 60 percent of the total of these debts. Then, another round of negotiations starts between the financial institution and the debtor side on how to retrieve these debts.

I would like to mention here that the banks accept this transfer of debt since this debt has become a dead debt as far as they are concerned and it is better for them to get part of it in return for transferring it. In return for this, the financial insititution attempts to gain some privileges from the debtor countries with an extension of the repayment period. They also receive a commission from this country.

It is undoubtedly, a very high commission, even if it depends on separate negotiations with each country, where some debtor countries can pay back their debts more quickly than other debtor countries. In this case, the commission is less. If, however, the repayment possibilities are fewer, then the commission is higher. This is logical and natural since everything has its price.

[Luways] Are there trade debts to be repaid to debtor nations that Egypt seeks to transfer to commercial banks?

[Makramallah] This is natural. However, these trade debts are very limited in amount. They might amount to $1 billion and several thousand U.S. dollars. Besides, this figure changes, considering the continued repayments and withdrawals, not to mention the change in the exchange rate. Furthermore, there are several offers that we have received.

But no decision has been taken so far regarding the acceptance of such offers which are still under discussion and consideration. This delay in acceptance is prompted by the fact that transferring these debts involves the acceptance in one way or another of terms that are harder and more cruel than the current terms.

[Luways] Are these debts related to the Paris Club agreements?

[Makramallah] These trade debts are subject to the terms laid down by the London Club, a body whose domain of activity is the opposite of the specialty of the Paris Club which takes care of secured government loans. Egypt has not sought the help of this club in view of the small amount of these trade debts which take the form of import facilities and short term credit facilities which are unsecured loans. Public organizations or other organizations might be the sources benefiting from these facilities and loans.

[Luways] What have the Arabs offered Egypt since the suspension of Egypt's membership in these funds was lifted in April 1988? Are there any obstacles which might hinder the contribution of these funds to the development plan? Or are these funds waiting to see Egypt obtain a second certificate of good conduct from the IMF?

[Makramallah] We always used to believe that Egypt will immediately obtain the loans agreed upon once an agreement is secured in this regard between Egypt and any Arab fund or finance house. This is not true, as Arab funds and finance houses are financial organizations which have standard operating procedures.

Besides, they also have boards of depositors and boards of directors; not to mention the need to gather accurate information and data on the projects which they agree to finance. It is possible to see the positive effects of these agreements emerge during the coming months.

I remember that our return to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development [AFESD] took place in April. Afterward, the AFESD director came to us and we agreed with him on many issues. We submitted to him a list containing a number of projects whose financing is required in the fields of electricity, agriculture, industry, and tourism. The AFESD officials are currently studying these projects.

For example, if Egypt wants the AFESD to contribute to the financing of an electricity station project, this does not necessarily mean that the AFESD is going to take care of the complete financing involved, as this requires hundreds of millions of dollars. The AFESD attempts to make other Arab funds contribute to financing the project.

Likewise, Egypt in turn tries to convince other parties of the viability of financing such projects. In brief, I would like to say that the financing operations take and are bound to take some time before funds are actually received and that the desired financing does not materialize overnight.

Moreover, we secured an agreement in this regard with the director of the Arab Capital Assurance Organization who voiced his readiness to start operations in Egypt. I reiterate that there are no links between these Arab funds and the IMF.

[Luways] What about the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa?

[Makramallah] This bank does not lend to Arab states. It grants loans to sub-Saharan African states. Egypt has regained its membership in this bank to bolster our ties with the African states through investment and through the loans granted by the bank and also to activate relations between the Arab states and African states. We do have shares in this bank.

[Luways] What is your comment on a World Bank official's statement that Egypt obtained from the bank loans estimated at about $3.6 billion, of which it used only $2.5 billion, and that Egypt's treasury incurs upon itself $10 million as a commission charge for the $1.1 billion blocked balance?

What are the main reasons for Egypt's failure to exploit these laons? Are they due to the weakness of the Egyptian construction sector or to the fact that these loans are sectoral ones? Does the private sector refuse to use such loans due to the constant change in exchange rates? Or is it due to red tape or other circumstances and reasons that prevented the exploitation of these loans despite the fact that Egypt is suffering from a shortage in the foreign revenues necessary to finance its projects?

[Makramallah] I would like to explain here that in order to guarantee the full implementation of any project in the world, we should provide the necessary finances for

it right from the beginning. In this way we will not begin a stage and stop there without achieving the other stages because investment will then stop and the returns expected from this investment will not be obtained.

This is considered a very large part of the $1.1 billion blocked balance, which represents sums of money earmarked for projects under implementation. Naturally, some of the projects under implementation require 2 or 3 years. This sum is deposited with the World Bank and we continuously withdraw from it.

This sum is therefore not blocked because it is linked to projects under implementation. Egypt pays a commission charge for the sums we withdrew but did not use, and this is related to projects in certain sectors such as those pertaining to promotion of small industries. These sums were not used due to the high interest rate on these loans.

Consequently, the private sector did not show interest in them as the interest rate reached 8.5 percent. As a government we are still in contact with the World Bank to amend the lending conditions. We either reach an agreement to amend them and so benefit from them, or cancel them.

Dr Maurice Makramallah adds: These sums are related to three loans estimated at about $400 million, part of which is blocked and was not used while the other is being used. These are loans allocated to the Exports Development Bank, the Industrial Development Bank, and the Agricultural Development Bank. Some of these loans are difficult to market, while others are easily used. What is important is that we discuss this subject seriously so that we will reach a decision in this regard.

All this crisis stemmed from the World Bank's provision of loans to certain sectors and certain projects. Since circumstatnces have changed, the subject should be discussed again with the bank in order to either cancel the loans or reconsider the bank's conditions.

[Luways] How true is it that the Egyptian citizen is indebted by half of his national income? Figures confirm that the ratio of Egypt's foreign debts compared to the gross national product in 1982/1983 amounts to 130 percent. Thus, the Egyptian citizen's average indebtedness is larger than his average income. It is logical that this crisis will be further exacerbated with the increase in Egypt's foreign debts.

[Makramallah] It can be stated that the Egyptian citizen is indebted by almost half of his income, compared with the foreign debt accruals, although this ratio is reasonable once we know that there are states in which the citizen is indebted by 100 percent. I am convinced that the creditor countries should take some measures in 1989 to alleviate the burden of debts from which the debitor countries are suffereing because it will be difficult for things to continue as they are now.

Government Will Be Forced To Print Banknotes

JN1601164389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Jan 89 p 1, 6

[By 'Ali Yasin]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the Ministry of Planning has prepared a report on the difficulties facing the second 5-year plan's projects due to lack of foreign financing. The report affirmed that the failure of talks with the IMF and the World Bank has led to great difficulties in implementing the plan's industrial and energy projects because its foreign finance needs cannot be met.

The government had depended on an expected 1.62 billion Egyptian pounds in the form of foreign grants and loans during the current fiscal year. They have not been able to make use of this although the first half of the second year has ended. The report indicated that the projects are facing a deficit of 2.3 billion Egyptian pounds.

A loan of 670 million Egytpian pounds had been expected to finance part of the deficit. However, the failure of the talks has hindered foreign loans pending the results of the talks with the IMF.

The report indicated that the government will be forced to print 1 billion Egyptian pounds in banknotes without reserves to cover the deficit and local finances of the plan's projects.

Crude Oil Prices To Increase by $1.25

NC1501134889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has decided to increase its crude oil prices by $1.25 during the second half of January. This was stated by Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the Petroleum Authority for Foreign Trade, following a meeting today by the committee in charge of determining prices of Egyptian oil.

The following is a table of the prices of Egyptian oil between 15-31 January:

Gulf of Suez and Ra's al-Bihar crude	$14.75 per barrel
Bala'im crude	$13.60 per barrel
Badran crude	$12.75 per barrel
Gharib crude	$12.45 per barrel

Libya

Arab Trade Unions To Boycott U.S. Firms

LD1701212789 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] Central Council has decided to withdraw all services to U.S. transport and communications at the airports and ports of the Arab homeland for 1 week beginning 1 February.

This was contained in the final statement issued by the ICATU Central Council at the end of its emergency session held at the Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory in Gharyan.

In its statements, the Council called upon all the Arab workers to boycott U.S. goods and materials and to refrain from giving any services to U.S. organizations in the Arab homeland.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Meeting U.S. 'Challenge'

LD1801011889 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to a delegation of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions 17 January 'in his tent'—recorded]

[Text] Truly, this stand [Arab trade union boycott of U.S. services] is unforgettable. It restores the standing of the Arab nation in front of the world. You have taken it because a gross encroachment took place against the Arab nation which was held in contempt and we are not to be reckoned with. Yet it is a great and honorable nation which has contributed to the civilization of the contemporary world.

The period of decline we experienced—disunity, regionalism, and moral weakness—made the enemy encroach and reached such an extent that he tried to veto our future. Make this one and don't make this one; he inspects this one and he does not inspect that one. It is as if it were their own homes. They want to inspect them and see what there is inside them.

In truth, there is no logic anymore. We have reached the unreasonable state. We are no longer able to tolerate them. It is known that imperialism is the one who is serving Zionism in Arab areas and is the one that is making Zionism inherit the Arab world. It wants to let the Arabs remain without effective means and stay on the periphery and that the dynamic force should be what is falsely called Israel.

The United States has devoted its strength to realizing this objective, which in reality will be at the expense of the Arab nation and future generations. From this point, we reject any veto against our future. We make whatever we want to make and do whatever we want to do. We know international laws; we respect them and we do not need anyone to show us how to respect international law.

We respect our international undertakings. We are committed to the international agreements we have signed, but if anyone comes along to make us be committed by force, then we refuse. We refuse even to be committed if it is forced on us.

It is not possible for a civilized nation not to uphold its agreements. Those who are not civilized are the cowboys and the charlatan Zionists who did not sign the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty. The Israelis have nuclear weapons; they have missiles with 4,000 km range pointing at every Arab capital. Your existence, Arabs, is in danger.

When we say we will meet the challenge with challenge, in actual fact I know I have no aircraft carrier with which to confront the U.S. aircraft carrier or the intercontinental missiles they threatened to use against us—cruise missiles and the likes. But the challenge is met through you. This is the challenge. We can meet the challenge with challenge. They bring their fleets and we bring the Arab nation. We bring its dynamic forces.

Here are the peasants, here are the workers, and here are the pharmacists and doctors who are staging a sit-in. I told them it is a Hiroshima. If you strike Al-Rabitah it would be like striking Hiroshima. They are still paying the price of Hiroshima today and until the end. The Red Army of which they are afraid—the Red Army of Japan—in fact we told them: You are to blame. You started it by striking Japan and this is the revenge. Japan is avenging itself.

The Red Army is torturing the United States and in the future it will detonate atomic bombs in it. It is because these people have vowed to take revenge for their nation.

Who gave the United States the right to test bombs on a people? This is what has given rise to Arab unity; this is the challenge. They partitioned us and they said: The Arabs will not rise again and now the field is wide open before the Israelis to expand.

The United States is threatening and the operation has turned on them. This nation is dynamic and is capable of meeting the challenge. The truth is that this stand can never be forgotten. It is a historic stand. I have challenged them and thanks be to God, the challenge succeeded.

Actually, I did not challenge them with military force or with myself. I challenged them with you, the nation. If there is a nation then that nation must challenge them. If they strike this factory, we challenge them to strike it. They do not know how to make the challenge.

Here are the Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf. They said, we are in Al-Rabitah; we are staging a sit-in in the Al-Rabitah factory. Anyone who strikes Al-Rabitah will be striking all of us; they retreated. It means that your will is stronger than the aircraft carrier and stronger than the cruise missiles. It is because these missiles and the aircraft carriers were defeated and they retreated.

No matter how much we fought with military power we were not able to make the U.S. fleets withdraw from the Libyan sea or go to Europe or the shores of Europe. But through this will and the international stand, on the basis of your stand, the U.S. fleets are withdrawing. They are holding their maneuvers along the European shores. They were scheduled to be held along the shores of Arab countries—the Libyan shores.

You have to see that your will is stronger. We have not fired a shot, but I said in the first telegram that there is no (?clash taking place). History stands as a witness to the defeat and end of the empires and tyranny and to the victory of the revolutionaries and the will of the nations, no matter how few they were. Now it has been established that the revolutionaries and the will of the people are the ones that triumphed. They triumphed over the fleets.

Our battle is not actually the battle of the bay of al-Bumbah or the bay of Sidra or Al-Rabitah only, it is the battle of the nation's existence, its future, and its status in the world. It is not only concerning this area, but it is from the ocean to the Gulf.

The entire Arab homeland is Al-Rabitah and the entire Arab homeland is a bay of Sidra and a bay of Al-Bumbah. It is as if every Arab aviator is the one who fell in this confrontation. If Libya were the target, it is something ordinary. But it is not: the target is the entire Arab nation.

They want to make the nation live on the sideline, and make the Israelis, through the strength of imperialism, inherit all the resources of the area. They say, from the Euphrates to the Nile. Why do they say from the Euphrates to the Nile? It is because they want water. At the moment they are fighting to seize the Yarmuk river, the Jordan river, and the Orontes and they hampered any Arab exploitation of these rivers. This is what happened.

The other battle is to reach the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Nile to seize the water sources; they want to starve us and make us live on the sideline, like fishermen, shepherds. They want to make us become gypsies—gypsies are scattered all over the world and have been vanquished so they scattered. Why then didn't the Arabs follow the gypsies? They, too, should live in tents and move from one place to another and become scattered all over the world.

If they find weakness in us they will not be deterred willingly. Seeing that if they get an advantage over you, they do not respect in you either the ties of kinship or of covenant. [Koranic verse]. They will not be pleased with us until we follow their wishes and submit to them.

Actually, if the danger is defeated on Libyan soil and opposite its shores, the danger that faces the entire Arab nation is also defeated. If it were not for your conviction that this is our nation and this is our enemy, you would not have been gathering here. This is how you met the challenge. Thanks be to God. You have raised our head high and you did not embarrass me in front of the world. [applause]

It is really marvelous, this challenge. They know what this challenge means. God bless you. We are proud of you; this is what lifts the morale of your Libyan brothers in this historic confrontation. In actual fact, your presence has raised the morale and will even raise it further as a result of your stand alongside Al-Rabitah. It confirms our determination to defend our right and it gives us self-confidence. Our will is stronger than their fleets and stronger than (?their NATO alliance).

We must be proud of this. With such a will we must work still further until we realize Arab unity and aggression is defeated, and Palestine—from the river to the sea—is liberated. This is our aim. Our aim is to live in peace, with dignity over our own soil and in the sun. We want to live with pride and dignity. We do not advocate invasion. They came to our territory; we have resisted them. The resistance must escalate and should continue until the Arab nation's aims to unity and liberation are realized. Thank you. [applause]

Jallud Speaks to Students on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD1801053589 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2040 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Speech by Revolutionary Command Council member Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud to students; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, dear brothers. First I would like to welcome the guests of the youth of the Jamahiriyah [applause] who were not blinded by the hostile campaign and the attempt to defame the Libyan Arab people and who got rid of the psychological campaign destructive to all moral values being waged by the U.S.-Western-Zionist media. [passage omitted]

The Jamahiriyah students, the students of the jamahiri society, should not scientifically suffer from the diseases suffered by the youth in the world, the youth of the traditional regimes, governments, and parties and the oppression, tyranny, and injustice establishments. [passage omitted]

The youth of the Jamahiriyah should, dear brothers, rise to the level of the era of the masses. On the shoulders of the Jamahiriyah's youth and with its tears, thought, and suffering the people's authority is being consolidated, the people's conferences are being consolidated. [passage omitted]

I hope that we are not deceived by the repeated U.S. aggression since 1969. Since the detonation of the revolution, the imperialist aggression—led by the United States, Zionism, and the imperialist West, the Western countries under U.S. domination—the enmity, began since the detonation of the revolution on 1 September 1969.

Even the Voice of America in a commentary said that enmity between the United States and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—they of course try to say there is no Libyan people, youth, revolution, or revolutionaries, they say Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—began since the explusion of the U.S. bases.

We say to them no. The enmity is with all the forces of the revolution in Libya, with all the Libyan people, with the whole Arab nation, with the whole generation of the Arab nation, because Mu'ammar represents the Arab nation, represents the youth of the Arab nation, represents the youth of Africa, represents Islam. [applause]

Thus dear brothers I hope that it is clear: The issue is not that of a chemical weapons factory. Know that Libya does not have the technical capabilities and it has no desire [to make such weapons]. This is a smokescreen: the United States and the West are hostile to us because they see that the thoughts emanating from Libya—the house belongs to the one who lives in it, the one who produces is the one who consumes, no democracy without people's conferences, freedom lies in need—these great dicta, dear brothers, the era of the masses is the petrochemical factories which terrorize Reagan, the United States, and the forces of exploitation, tyranny, and injustice. [sentence as heard] [applause]

This is the truth dear brothers. The era of the masses is stronger than nuclear bombs and stronger than chemical weapons. The free masses, dear brothers, the era of the masses dear brothers, is advancing despite the encircling of the Libyan people. [passage omitted]

Thus the issue is not one of chemical weapons. The issue is this strong voice, the voice that rejects hegemony, the voice that calls for the unity of the Arab nation. The U.S. Administration, Reagan's administration, sent people to Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria, and it is very annoyed by the unity of the Arab Maghreb. They told the administration Mu'ammar had not changed his policy.

The brothers in Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria asked the representatives of the U.S. Administration: Why has Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi not changed his policy? They said, for instance, he still insists on Arab unity. Thus the matter is not one of terrorism and not one of chemical weapons; the issue is they do not want anyone who stands up against them, against hegemony, against imperialism, against exploitation. They do not want any forces struggling for Arab unity, for the liberation of Palestine.

We should, dear brothers, understand this, in order to be aware of the nature of the struggle. The issue is that of this resisting voice, this resisting position, this rejecting voice, this steadfast proud bastion. They want to weaken it, at least, or destroy it. Because U.S. imperialism, the current U.S. Administration, the West, and Zionism believe that the time is favorable for the liquidation of the Palestinian cause. They want to spread Camp David and destroy the Arab nation's hope of liberating Palestine. They see, regrettably, the leaders of the PLO recognize the enemy.

Mu'ammar says Palestine must be liberated from the river to the sea and from the south of Lebanon to the south, and all the youth of the Jamahiriyah and all the youth of the Arab nation. [sentence incomplete as heard] They must destroy this position, because they now believe that there is a possibility of liquidating the Palestinian cause, and realize the hope of recognizing the enemy, and turn the struggle from one over existence to one over borders.

Thus they feel they must attack this position and try to destroy it to pave the way for eliminating the Palestinian cause and recognizing the enemy. 'Arafat conceded four-fifths of Palestine. Perhaps the Arab nation does not know, the masses of the Arab nation do not know, that the Palestinians and the world have decided to concede four-fifths of Palestine in return for one-fifth, and even this one-fifth is in doubt.

The masses of the Libyan Arab people and the youth of the Jamahiriyah should know the truth. The youth who came from Europe and all the world should know the truth. This is the struggle of ideas, the era of ideas and ideologies. The ideologies and thoughts, the thoughts of the masses' era are stronger than the atom [bomb] and chemical weapons. Let them know that Libya is not ready and does not want to manufacture chemical weapons. [applause]

Thus dear brothers, the day after the Palestine National Council regrettably recognized Resolutions 242 and 338, and conceded four-fifths [of Palestine] I was listening to the commentries of British newspapers. One of them said, expressing the truth indeed, the Palestinian citizen is confused between celebrating the establishment of his state and mourning conceding his historical right to his villages and cities and four-fifths of Palestine. [applause] This was stated by a British newspaper.

Now dear brothers, they are making smokescreens to blind the masses of the Arab nation, the youth of the Arab nation, and they say we will achieve through politics, dialogue, and diplomacy more than we achieved through armed struggle. They want to numb us and blind us.

Thus dear brothers, you must know the truth. The truth is not terrorism, and not chemical weapons. We are the victims of state terrorism. Since 1969, the United States has been terrorizing us with warships, boycotts, economic siege, and acts of piracy when it took possession of our funds in U.S. banks, and by flexing its muscles, deciding to poison brother Mu'ammar, consecrating the strongest air and naval force, the most advanced technology in order to assassinate Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This is terrorism itself, dear brothers. [passage omitted]

Brothers, our youth, and our pilots who confronted U.S. arrogance deep in the Mediterranean are an extension of all the Arab nation's youth from the ocean to the Gulf. [applause] Brothers, all our martyrs since 1981 until the latest confrontation in the last few weeks are martyrs of the Arab nation and martyrs of Arab youth. [applause]

They are defending, brothers, the young pilots, brothers, defending the honor of the Arab nation. They express the pride of the Arab nation and the glory of the Arab nation. Brothers, yes we lost much in the confrontation since 1981, we lost pilots and sailors who were martyred, but this is a small price for the glory recorded by the Libyan Arab people in the history of the Arab nation. [applause]

Brothers, free brothers, yes in all the confrontations in the Mediterranean or the Gulf of Sidra since 1981 until this month, 1989, we paid in martyrs, but the U.S. warships, U.S. aircraft, and the U.S. aircraft carriers used to run away like rats, fearing our eagles and pilots.

Yes brothers, after the premeditated aggression on the two Libyan aircraft in an unequal confrontation, the aircraft carrier John Kennedy ran away and sheltered in Haifa, fearing revenge, [applause] sailed out of range of the Libyan Arab aircraft. [chants]

Brothers, a simple comparison: in 1967 we lost militarily, and the West Bank and Gaza were occupied in 1967, that is the rest of Palestine was occupied. Even parts of Syria and Sinai were occupied, but the will to resist remained and 'Abd al-Nasir continued to raise the banner of steadfastness and say no to the recognition of the enemy, no to talks, no to Zionist existence. But brothers, in the farsical war, the notorious war, the war of 1973, the fabricated war, what happened?

The will to resist fell and we were pschologically defeated and now, as a result of that staged war, the Arab leaders recognize the Zionist enemy and the PLO leadership regrettably recognizes the enemy and concedes four-fifths of Palestine for the sake of one-fifth, which is not even guaranteed. This is the difference, brothers. [passage omitted]

Now the free Libyan people at its people's conference should all be 'Abd al-Nasir and should constitute the steadfastness and resistance for the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf. Forward, the revolutionary struggle continues!

Iran on Solidarity Against U.S. 'Aggression'

LD1301191589 Tripoli JANA in English 1747 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 13, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—Iran re-affirmed its firm standing with the Libyan Arab people in confrontation with any aggression aimed at Great Jamahiriyah and its civilised accomplishments.

A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry asserted that all the world's states—even America's allies—did not believe the U.S. fabricated claims and excuses regarding its aggression against the 2 Libyan reconnaissance aircraft. He warned America against the consequences of pressing ahead with any aggression against Great Jamahiriyah.

Arab League Official Arrives, Makes Statement

LD1401100889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0747 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 14 Jan (JANA)—Brother Mahdi Mustafa al-Hadi, assistant secretary of the League of Arab States, arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, he voiced his pleasure over his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. In his statement he pointed out that his visit comes in the context of preparations for the Arab health ministers' conference, which will be held in the Great Jamahiriyah next March. He said that topics on the conference agenda concern pharmaceutical production, combatting epidemics and diseases, the Arabization of the teaching of medicine, discussing Arab relief efforts, and the confrontation of disasters in Arab countries.

He pointed out that this visit coincides with the imperialist U.S. threats against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and emphasized that any aggression against the Libyan Arab people is an aggression against the entire Arab motherland. He also said that his presence here is an expression of solidarity with the people of the Jamahiriyah and support for their heroic stances in defense of their territory, themselves, their heritage, and all the principles for which they and the Arab motherland struggle.

The issue is not one factory; it is premeditated and concocted. It is an attempt to terrorize the Libyan people so as to frighten them into reversing their stances and abandoning their high principles, noble aims, and stances in support of Libya, the Arab motherland, and all freedom- and peace-loving peoples. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Maghreb Industry Ministers

LD1801054289 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received the industry ministers from the Arab Maghreb countries. The industry ministers told the brother leader during the

meeting about results of the Arab Maghreb countries' conference. They affirmed the need to set up a unified Arab industry and develop the current Arab industries and that the pharmaceutical factory in Al-Rabitah in the town of Gharyan is a contemporary achievement for the benefit of the Arab citizen

The ministers affirmed their stand and solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in confronting any aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah and its giant contemporary transformations.

Denmark Denies Contribution to 'Medicine Factory'
LD1301172789 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Copenhagen, Ay al-Nar 13, [January 13]—The Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen refuted U.S. claims that a Danish firm has contributed in building the medicine factory America is claiming it to be a chemical weapons factory.

The Danish official said that his country had provided Libya in accordance with agreements to provide plumbing parts and equipment and for vocational training. [sentence as received]

Secretary Receives Burkinabe Health Minister
LD1301194389 Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Health met yesterday evening "Alain Zoubga" the health minister of Burkina Jamahiriyah who is visiting Great Jamahiriyah nowadays.

The health secretary gave detailed account on the Al-Rabitah medicine factory in Gharyan and the types and quantities of medicines it would be producing to these Burkinabe minister. He pointed out to him that the plant will depend on the raw materials available in Great Jamahiriyah to create an advanced medicine industry that meets the Arab and African peoples' needs from medicines.

He asserted that the U.S. claims and fabrications against the plant and the threat to strike it were an attempt to disrupt progress and impose backwardness upon the African peoples aspiring progress and liberty.

Dr. Alain Zoubga confirmed his country's solidarity and standing with the Libyan Arab people in its brave confrontation with all U.S. imperialist threats and aggressions.

He asserted that the economic and political victories being achieved by the Libyan Arab people are a victory to the will of the African peoples and all the world's nations which struggle for liberation and to live in peace.

During the meeting, they discussed the means of consolidating and promoting the existing cooperation between the two friendly peoples of Great Jamahiriyah and Burkina Jamahiriyah in the fields of health.

Mauritania

'Economic War' With Senegal Over Imports
AB1601205089 Paris AFP in French 1956 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 16 Jan (AFP)—Senegal and Mauritania are engaged in an economic war following the decision by Senegal last week to suspend the importation of certain Mauritanian products (pasta, mineral water, and fresh fish), it was learned today from well-informed sources in Nouakchott.

Mauritania reacted to this measure yesterday by deciding on its part to suspend until further notice the importation of three highly consumed Senegalese products in Mauritania: vegetable oil, cattle feed, and vegetables.

(In Dakar, a source close to the Ministry of Commerce indicates that the measure to suspend the importation of certain Mauritanian products was taken for health reasons and is only temporary).

According to informed sources in Nouakchott, this minor economic war is to the disadvantage of Senegal, whose yearly exports to Mauritania are valued at 605 million ouguiyas (about Fr56 million), while those of Mauritania to Senegal are valued at 170 million ouguiyas a year.

The Mauritanian authorities who were questioned said they are astonished by this unilateral decision by Senegal which, according to them, jeopardizes the special relations existing between the two countries.

This issue is disturbing economic relations between Mauritania and Senegal less than 2 months after the measures taken by Senegal to stop the movement of Mauritanian camels on its territory.

Sudan

Physicians, Professors, Engineers Plan Strike
NC1301135889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jan (MENA)—The Sudanese Physicians General Assembly has decided to begin a 3-day strike on 8 February and another 1-week strike as of 18 February. The latter will be followed by collective resignations on 26 February if the government does not respond to physicians' demands outlined in the association's proposals concerning the job structure and improved health services.

In another development, Kharoum University pofessors will begin a 1-week strike on Saturday [14 January] to protest infringement on the university's independence by the ad hoc committee on wages.

Engineers also will stage a 5-day strike this Tuesday [17 January] to protest certain matters related to financial and living conditions.

Khartoum University professors and Sudanese engineers will hold a news conference tomorrow morning to justify the strike.

INA Reports Demonstrations

JN1701130089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1228 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (INA)—Sporadic demonstrations were staged in the Sudanese capital today while engineers and technicians declared a 5-day strike to protest the deterioration of living standards.

The INA correspondent in Khartoum has said that the police forces used tear gas to disperse demonstrators while a short while ago sounds of gunfire were heard in Al-Miqan [name as received] area, where the U.S. Embassy is located.

It is to be recalled that the Sudanese capital has recently witnessed very violent demonstrations and civil disobedience following certain economic measures taken by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government.

In a subsequent report, the INA correspondent in the Sudanese capital said that electricity, water, telephone, and telex services in the capital have stopped.

Government Accepts Demands

JN1701193589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (INA)— Sudanese engineers and technicians have ended a strike, which lasted all day today and resulted in a complete standstill in water, electricity, and telecommunication services.

A statement issued by the Engineers Union stated that the strike, which was scheduled to last for 5 days to protest what they called the deterioration in living and economic standards, has been called off "because the government has accepted major parts of their demands."

The statement asserted that the union has received written guarantees from the government and Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

The INA correspondent in Khartoum has said that water, electricity, and telecommunication services were restored to normal this evening, Tuesday, immediately after the announcement of the end of strike.

Engineers End Strike

LD1701202089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1709 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan. (SUNA)—Engineers trade unions have lifted their strike started today, after reaching agreement with the government on the demands sumitted by the trade union, Secretary of the Trade Union Eng. Muhammad Faig [name as received] announced. M. Faig said that the Council of Ministers decided today to implement all the engineers' demands submitted by the ministerial committee assigned to study the said demands.

SPLM Rejects Government Peace Proposals

EA1701151989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan—News reports said here today that Garang's movement [SPLM] has rejected Sadiq's proposals [words indistinct] held between Garang's movement and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in Addis Ababa last November.

The reports add that the movement's opinion is that the proceedings at the movement's meetings with the DUP will answer all the questions raised by the government. [passage indistinct]

3 Islamic Front Deputies Resign To Join DUP

NC1301165089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jan (MENA)—Three deputies representing the Sudanese National Islamic Front in the Constituent Assembly have announced that they have resigned from the Front to join the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP].

The three deputies are Dr Faruq Adam, 'Abd al-Jabbar Adam, and Ibrahim Abu Bakr, and they represent Darfur Province. They will hold a news conference tomorrow, Saturday, to outline their reasons for leaving the Front and joining the DUP.

Ahmad Bilal, a member of the DUP Political Bureau, has stated that the deputies have notified the DUP of their wish to join it.

It is worth noting that this is the first time such an event has taken place in Sudan.

Bahrain

Fishing Ship Hits Sea Mine; Captain Killed

JN1701155989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, 17 Jan (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Ministry of the Interior has stated that an explosion took place on a fishing ship this morning while it was sailing in the area of Hair Busur [placename as received] northeast of Bahrain.

The explosion killed the ship's captain, who was identified as Ya'qub 'Ali Ya'qub, a Bahraini national. The ship's crewmen, comprising five sailors of Asian nationalities, sustained various wounds.

The operations room of the Bahraini Coast Guard Department received a statement this morning saying that an explosion took place on board a fishing ship.

Initial investigations have indicated that another fishing ship was stationed close to the area of the incident and the crewmen of this ship managed to save the five sailors, recover the body of the deceased, and take them to the port of Al-Muharraq, where security authorities began to investigate the incident.

Initial investigations also indicated that the cause of the explosion was the ship's hitting a mine. The source added that the investigation is still under way to reveal all circumstances and implications of the incident.

Official Discusses Exports to GCC States

JN1401165689 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, Jan 14 (GNA)—Bahrain's national products exports to the GCC states during last year jumped to the double in comparison with the year before, a Bahraini official said today.

Bahrain's imports from the GCC states also increased during the same period with the balance in the total trade exchange in favour of Bahrain, the official said, adding that Saudi Arabia was at the top of the importers list of the Bahraini national products.

Bahraini Director of Customs Khalil al-Mutawi' said in an interview with weekly paper 'AL-ADWA' published here today that during the period the trade exchange balance was in favour of Bahrain with four GCC states. The UAE exports were more than its imports from Bahrain, he said.

Mr al-Mutawi' added that Bahrain's exports of national products to the GCC states totaled BD [Bahrini Dinars] 59 million during 1988 in comparison to BD 20 million in the year before.

He pointed out that Bahrain's exports to Saudi Arabia increased to more than the double, ranking the Kingdom as the main GCC importer. Bahrain has exported products to Saudi Arabia worth BD 42 million during 88 in comprison with BD 19 million in teh previous year.

Mr al-Mutawi' added that the main products of Bahrain's exports to the GCC states were aluminium, furniture, tissues, water pipes, medicine syringes, boats, leather, air conditioners, fruit juice, printing papers and filling [as received] bags.

Decree Endorses 1989-90 State Budget

JN1201183289 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, Jan 12 (GNA)—Deputy H.H the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah has issued an amiri decree published in today's official gazette, endorsing the 1989-90 state budget.

Revenue were estimated at BD [Bahraini Dinars] 430 million for 1989 and BD 440 million for 1990.

The general expenditures in the budget for the Financial year 1989:

Recurring Expenditure are estimated at BD 425 million.

Projects expenditure are estimated at BD 105 million.

For the financial Year 1990:

Recurring expenditure are estimated at BD 415 million

Projects expenditure are estimated at BD 125 million.

Bahraini Minister of Finance and National Economy Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim told daily 'AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ', published here today, that any improvements in oil prices over the next two years as a result of recent OPEC agreements, will reduce the need to borrow as much.

With expending of BD 1,070 million and a projected two-year revenue of BD 870 million, Bahrain will be resorting to deficit financing once again (BD 200 million over the two years), he said.

"However, we feel this amount in proportion to our gross domestic product will not be a burden 'Abd al-Karim said.

Prices of essential goods and services will stay the same and no cuts in government work forces are planned. In fact manpower expenditure on salaries rises from BD 256 million this year to BD 270 million in 1990, he said.

There are also no increases in customs duties or power and water charges during the next two years.

"The only increases will be on some labour charges and costs of certain judicial procedures. Also next year there will be minor increases in passport and immigration fees," said 'Abd al-Karim.

Kuwait

Finance Minister Interviewed on Economy, Taxes

JN1601093389 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Jan 89 p 9

[By Hisham al-Diwan]

[Text] [Kuwaiti] Finance Minister Jasim al-Khurafi has defended the decision to raise the interest rates on the Kuwaiti dinar. He said that this is an inevitable decision in line with the developments in the Kuwaiti financial market and with the economic situation in general. He added that this decision was not arbitrary and was a studied decision that responds to the state's policy for the attainment of stability.

In an interview with AL-WATAN, Al-Khurafi said that this state of affairs is not permanent and that the decision to increase or decrease interest rates will continue to depend on the market in Kuwait and abroad.

Al-Khurafi said that Kuwait will impose a taxation system in the future that will fulfill several objectives. The first objective of this system is not to harm those in the low-income bracket in any way whatsoever so as not to disturb the Kuwaiti family's standard of living on one hand, and not to impose new burdens on the Kuwaitis. He said that this taxation system will first of all be applied to the foreign sectors.

Al-Khurafi stressed that the implementation of such a step is to maintain a strong economy capable of dealing with the many changes in the world, foremost being the precedence that is given to the private sector over the public sector. He said that this system will first be applied to foreign companies only.

Al-Khurafi said that some believe that Kuwait's economy lacks planning, and that many decisions are being made under pressure or in reaction to specific incidents which is not true.

He said that the steps that will be adopted to gradually impose specific duties and taxes on some services which used to be dispensed free of charge are not to supply the treasury with additional revenues but to accustom the citizens to act according to the state's policy of squeezing expenditures, to develop the patterns of optimal utilization of revenues and resources, and to make them participate in some of the fields of expenditures, or have them invest in some services projects that will be included in future development plans.

The Kuwaiti minister denied that there is any haste to impose taxes or additional duties. He said that this will take place according to a specific timetable so as not to overburden citizens.

The finance minister stressed the success of his plans over the past years to rationalize and curtail expenditure and to end extravagance and unjustified or profitless expenditure. He said that this policy faced some objection, but the current budget reveals the difference in expenditure between this budget and previous ones.

He said: This is what we aimed for and achieved. We will continue this policy. There is a clear government understanding and unlimited support by his highness the amir and his highness the heir apparent. Actually, the success of Kuwait's orientations in this regard is not judged only by the billions which have been saved over the past 5 or 6 years, but in reducing the budget deficit during the hard economic circumstances which stormed the region and led to strong economic jolts in some countries because of the decline of oil prices.

Needless to say, our country is more inclined to be affected due to its proximity to the Gulf war flames, the oil siege which we suffered, and the world economic situation at large.

Al-Khurafi said that Kuwait will not go back on the series of measures aimed at organizing and rationalizing expenditure even if oil prices soar again and if oil and non-oil revenues increase. Therefore, the issue of fees and taxes or any future government step will be within the context of organizing government and private expenditure.

Replying to a question on the merits of the new government orientation, the minister said that Kuwait has so far succeeded in activating a significant portion of the capabilities of the private sector and that the government is considering giving up some of its establishments to the private sector within a well-studied plan which maintains these establishments' assets and puts them in a fearless position.

Asked whether there is an intention or an orientation to reconsider civil servants wages, the finance minister said that this may be done anytime within the framework of a comprehensive review by the state of its laws and regulations which organize the bases of work and internal relations and secure the rights of the state and citizens.

However, he said, I believe that such an action is necessary. Wages should be linked to employees' efforts and productivity, not certificates or posts, he noted.

The finance minister denied the presence of obstacles before the establishment of a common Gulf market. He said that the GCC leaders expressed unlimited confidence and optimism about the possibility of achieving all

requirements of economic integration in the area. He added: Undoubtedly, the common market is one of the most important issues. It is a main pillar in economic integration.

However, the issue of a common market needs preparations and some time. I believe that through goodwill and joint understanding of our priorities we can reach this goal in the near future.

New Labor Law Restricts Hiring Practices

JN1701144989 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] The new labour law signed Saturday by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad prohibits employers from employing workers without getting permission from the ministry.

The permission to hire a foreign workers is not transferable during the first three years even if the worker is hired locally. In government projects, workers are not allowed to transfer to another sponsor during the contract between them and their original employer except in the case of withdrawal of the project from the original contractor, and transferring it to another. In this case the workers of the project can be transferred to sponsorship of the new contractor without abiding by the period (three years).

After the completion of a government project the contractor can transfer his workers to sponsorship of another employer who is carrying out a similar project or return them home.

The minister has the right to exempt any worker from restriction of the three years period. The ministry also has the right to exempt those who have lived in Kuwait for 10 continuous years, from this period, if they are dismissed from their work according to articles 57 and 59 of the private sector labour law. The ministry has the right to transfer the work permit to another sponsor even if his employer refuses, or without referring to the employer.

The employer should cancel the work permit of his worker at the end of his work and return him to his country at the employer's expense unless he has the right to transfer his work permit to another sponsor.

The ministry also has the right to reject any work permit application, renewal or transfer even if the conditions are met, without revealing the reason.

The ministry also has the right (without revealing reasons) to ask the employer to cancel the work permit of a certain worker and return him to his country.

The order calls for unemployed Kuwaiti and GCC citizens to register their names at the specialised labour departments. These departments will exchange information in order to find jobs and nominate them according to qualification and experience.

The labour departments will not permit any employer to bring or employ a foreign worker if they have workers registered in these departments who can occupy the same jobs. The departments will not issue work permits for foreign workers if employers refused to employ registered workers.

United Arab Emirates

Reportage on Visit of Venezuelan President-Elect

Comments on OPEC, Middle East

JN1701121089 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez today stressed that his country supports the UAE's request to increase its production quota under a new production agreement within OPEC.

Addressing a news conference at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel, his excellency said he believes that the commitment of the 13 OPEC member states to their quotas will increase the demand for OPEC oil, and therefore the redistribution of quotas within a higher production ceiling.

The president-elect, who will assume office as president of the Venezuelan Republic on 2 February, added that the situation in the oil market and the UAE's request to increase its quota were the focus of talks he held yesterday evening with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent, deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and chairman of the Higher Petroleum Council.

He described the talks as fruitful, saying: Through my long-standing relationship with it, I knew that the UAE would give its full support to the OPEC agreement.

The Venezuelan president-elect said he also discussed with his Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan the question of production quotas and the UAE's share in light of its request for a fair share.

The president-elect said he believes the coming year is suitable for holding a summit conference of the leaders of the 13 OPEC member states when the organization celebrates the 30th anniversary of its establishment.

In another development, the Venezuelan president-elect said his country and other states in Latin America have rejoiced the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran, particularly since the two countries are founder members of OPEC.

He added: We are very optimistic that there will be real peace very soon between the two countries which I will visit later today and tomorrow.

On Venezuela's stand on the Middle East, his excellency the president-elect said that recent developments have opened prospects for the possibility of achieving peace in the region.

He said the recent stands and statements announced by Yasir 'Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, deserve Venezuela's total support.

Sees Finance, Industry Minister

JN1701164289 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Dubayy, Jan 17 (GNA)—The UAE and Venezuela today stressed the need for maintaining oil market stability to benefit the interests of both producers and consumers.

This came during a meeting between UAE Finance and Industry Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid Al Maktum and Venezuelan President [title as received] Carlos Andres Perez.

They exchanged views on several issues related to prices and production quotas and the positions of producers inside OPEC and outside it.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs Ahmad al-Tayir and the Venezuelan delegation accompanying President Perez.

Perez, who arrived yesterday, is due to leave today for Tehran as part of a Gulf tour.

Leaves After 2-Day Visit

JN1701170389 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Dubayy, Jan 17 (GNA)—Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez left here today at the end of a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

During the visit, Perez held talks with a number of officials here on the oil market and relations between the two countries

Production of 'Biological Weapons' Denied

JN1801120389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi News Agency has cited a responsible source at the Ministry of Culture and Information as stating the following:

A responsible source from the Ministry of Culture and Information has denied the Zionist enemy allegations that the Zionist enemy has sent a warning to Iraq through the United States pertaining to the Zionist enemy intentions to attack what it called a factory producing biological weapons.

The spokesman said that if such a warning is received, Iraq will strongly reject it. The spokesman asserted that Iraq does not produce such weapons and does not need them for defensive purposes.

The spokesman added that the aim of such allegations is perfectly clear because Israel is very upset by Iraq's victory over the Iranian enemy aggression and the halt of this aggression, which Israel wanted to prolong in order to keep the Arab nation engaged and subjected to the Iranian regime's threats. Israel supplied the Iranian regime with all the means to continue its aggression.

Israel and the Zionist circles endeavored to make the allegations about chemical weapons the central news item in world media in order to divert attention from the brave uprising of the Palestinian people and Israeli crimes against them.

The spokesman warned: Israel should not fall under the illusion that its June 1981 aggression against the Iraqi nuclear reactor, prompted by certain reasons at that time, could be repeated because Iraq is perfectly capable of defending itself and retaliating against any aggression to which it is exposed.

The spokesman noted that Iraq adheres to international laws and agreements and is making a positive contribution to international efforts to strengthen security and stability in the world. Iraq strongly rejects any attempt to subdue or influence it, be it through the media or through other means, with the aim of weakening the factors of its national security.

Reportage on Visit of SFRY Official Zemljaric

Arrives for Committee Talks

JN1401075489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The meetings of the joint Iraqi-SFRY committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation will begin in Baghdad today. The committee will discuss issues that will deepen and entrench bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade fields and the exchange of experience and information between the two friendly states.

Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the Federal Executive Council, arrived in Baghdad last night to lead the SFRY side to these meetings.

Confers With Trade Minister

JN1401211489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council.

They reviewed bilateral economic and trade ties and followed up the implementation of the decisions contained in the joint meeting minutes of the third session of the joint Iraqi-SFRY committee for economic, trade, and scientific cooperation.

The two officials also discussed ways to increase the volume of bilateral trade exchange as well as the issue pertaining to the contribution of SFRY firms toward the implementation of a number of Iraqi development projects.

Received by 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN1501124489 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 15, INA—Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim received the Yugoslav Deputy Premier Mr. Janez Zemljaric.

Mr. Ibrahim received a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Mr. Raif Dizdarevic, president of the collective presidency of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Ibrahim asked the Yugoslav official to convey greetings of President Saddam Husayn to President Dizdarevic and stressed Iraq's keenness and sincere desire to promote relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Zemljaric conveyed greetings of the Yugoslav president to President Saddam Husayn and the stress of his country's desire to promote relations of friendship and coperation with Iraq.

During the meeting close relations between the two countries and means of promoting them as well as Arab and international issues of common concern, particularly those related to the Nonaligned Movement were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi Minister of Trade Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Ramadan

JN1501160489 Baghdad INA in English 1535 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 15, INA—Member of Revolution Command Council and Iraq's first deputy premier, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, met here today with the Yugoslav deputy premier, Mr. Janez Zemljaric, and his accompanying delegation.

Mr. Ramadan and Mr. Zemljaric expressed at the meeting their satisfaction with the level of relations between the two countries and stressed the necessity of serious joint action to develop them in various fields.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad, the new prospects that contribute to promote bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields as well as the role of the Yugoslav organizations to increase commercial exchange between the two countries and to implement development projects in Iraq were discussed.

Departs 15 Jan

JN1501185689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad this evening at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq.

Zemljaric held talks with officials from the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization on ways to promote and expand cooperation in economic, trade, and industrial areas.

The talks also dealt with the SFRY institutions' continued contribution to the implementation of development projects in Iraq. He was seen off at the airport by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Visit of YAR Development Minister

Arrives With Delegation

JN1601181289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1658 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, YAR deputy prime minister and development minister, arrived here this evening leading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq to last several days.

Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar will lead his delegation to the preliminary meetings of the eighth session of the YAR-Iraqi joint higher committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, to begin work tomorrow.

Receiving Al-'Attar at the airport were Tahir Muhammad Hassun, housing and reconstruction minister and head of the Iraqi side to the two countries' joint committee; the Education Ministry under secretary and deputy head of the Iraqi side; and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Planning Minister

JN1701112089 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan.17, INA—Mr. Samal Majid Farah, Iraqi planning minister today met here with Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the Arab Republic of Yemen's deputy premier, minister of development.

Prospects of bilateral economic cooperation and means of developing it in various fields were discussed during the meeting.

The Yemeni deputy premier arrived here yesterday, heading a delegation, to participate in preliminary meetings of the 8th session of the Iraqi-Yemeni joint higher committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation, due to start here later today.

Confers With Ramadan

JN1701160389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Attar, YAR deputy prime minister and development minister. Taha Yasin Ramadan praised YAR's pan-Arab stands, which were crowned by practical participation in the battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah through the Al-'Urubah Brigade.

During the meeting, Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar said that President Saddam Husayn's interest in the Al-'Urubah Brigade is a medal of honor for all of the YAR Armed Forces.

He described the YAR's contribution in Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah as a pan-Arab duty. He also expressed the appreciation of YAR—leadership and people—for the warmth of the official and popular send off, which was accorded to the heroes of the Yemeni Al-'Urubah Brigade.

The brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries were discussed and the need to improve them in the future was asserted.

Attends Cooperation Talks

JN1701165189 Baghdad INA in English 1558 GMT 17 Janb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 17, INA—Meetings of the 8th session of the Iraqi-Yemeni joint commission for economic trade and technical cooperation began here today within the frame of preparations for the first meeting of the joint higher commission between the two countries.

Mr. Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and construction, head of the Iraqi side at the commission, at the beginning of the session, hailed the stand of leadership and people of Yemen towards Saddam Al-Qadisiyah battle in which the Yemeni Armed Forces expressed their intimate and [as received] link of destiny with their brethren in the Iraqi Armed Forces in Defence of the Arab land.

He said "We are ambitious that the 8th session of the joint commission would come out with results embodying directives of the two countries' leaderships in creating fruitful cooperation proportionate to the distinguished relationship between the two countries."

Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy premier and minister of development and head of the Yemeni side at the commission expressed happiness of the Yemeni people for participation of Al-'Urubah Brigade in the defence of the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

He said "the mixture of Yemeni and Iraqi blood on the Arab land, embodies cohesion of destiny of sons of the Arab nation."

He added that time had come so that reason and logic prevail on emotions in our joint action because the Arab nation is facing a big challenge dictating the unification of ranks to build the economic and technical sound foundations to encounter these challenges.

Mr. al-'Attar lauded the Iraqi military industrial and technological progress and said that Iraq achieved during a short period by that [as received] a lesson to Arab countries and world states in self-dependence and steadfastness in the face of challenges.

Three ad hoc committees, namely: Oil and gas, economic, trade and financial cooperation and cultural cooperation, emanated from the joint commission and embarked on their work in translating the major indicators to defined working programs that can be implemented and applied according to potentials and capabilities of the two countries to be referred to the higher commission for endorsement.

The Yemeni side presented a proposed working paper in which it defined that the Iraqi side could participate in execution of joint projects and programs and what the Yemen Arab Republic could offer to Iraq in addition to evaluation of works and programs that had been agreed upon implemented during the previous sessions of the commission.

In its coming meetings, the commission discusses means of enhancing the joint coperation in fields of executing scientific and technical projects and programs on practical bases in agricultural, and industrial fields, goods trade-exchange, oil and gas, constructions, education, health, communciations and transport, public works, culture, information and tourism, and youth, sports and training fields.

Finance Minister, Delegation Leave for FRG

JN1601132989 Baghdad INA in English 1252 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 16, INA—Iraqi Minister of Finance Mr. Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif left here today for Bonn leading a delegation on a several-day visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The minister told INA that he will hold talks with a number of officials there on economic and trade relations between the two countries.

AL-THAWRAH on Iranian Delegation's Moscow Visit

JN1701202189 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Jan 89 p 15

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (INA)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has received a personal message from Khomeyni, the content of which was not revealed.

This was reported by TASS, which stated that Khomeyni's personal representative Abdullah Javadi Amoli has delivered the message during a meeting with the Soviet leader, without mentioning any details about the meeting.

The news agency has pointed out that Aleksandr Yakovlev, CPSU Politburo member and head of the Kremlin's International Relations Section [title as published], attended the meeting.

The Iranian delagation, headed by Amoli and including Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani and Majlis Deputy [Mrs] Marziyeh Hadidehchi, arrived in Moscow yesterday.

Paper Cited on Talks

JN1701203389 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] London, INA—The newspaper, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, has affirmed that the Iranian leadership seems now to be even more divided than at any other time on basic long-term options.

In an article by the Iranian writer Amir Tahiri, the newspaper said that the division is clear between Foreign Minister Velayati and Prime Minister Musavi. At the same time, Rafsandjani declares that the revolution in Iran has ended and the time has come to move on to other matters.

The newspaper article dealt with relations between Iran and the Soviet Union in light of the talks taking place between the two sides and Khamene'i's message to Soviet President Gorbachev. It clarified that Moscow has refrained from answering Tehran's calls to hold an essential political dialogue of importance.

It gave as a reason for this the great changes that have taken place within the past 8 months in the two countries. President Gorbachev has moved from a position of strategic confrontation with the West to a position of long-term peaceful coexistence.

As for Iran, the writer Amir Tahiri says in his article that the situation there is also changed. The regime has not been able to regain its strength yet as a result of the blow it received when Khomeyni declared that he had to gulp down the goblet of poison. He realized that it is essential for him to give up his dream of conquering the sacred Iraqi cities and then controlling the whole Islamic world.

Arens Summons FRG Envoy on Aid to Libya

TA1801153989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The foreign minister today summoned the FRG ambassador to Israel to express the great concern and gravity with which Israel regards the assistance extended by German companies to the chemical weapons plant in Libya and to the improvement of the Libyan Air Force's performance.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Arens asked the envoy to convey the spirit of the message to his government and to find out whether German firms have indeed also helped set up chemical weapons plants in Iraq and Syria.

The ambassador was also requested to present to Israel the findings of the investigation carried out in his country on the use of organs taken from Nazi victims in German research institutes.

Envoy to FRG on Libya

TA1701164889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Telephone interview with Beni Navon, ambassador to the FRG, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Good evening. Does our diplomatic activity on the chemical weapons issue in the FRG have any practical value? Today we heard Foreign Minister Moshe Arens say that we are busy closing the barn door after the horse is gone.

[Navon] I am not sure this is the case. I would first like to make a statement of principle: Israel views with grave concern all weapon supplies to countries at a state of war with us. This refers to all kinds of weapons. Even more so when we hear of weapons supplied from a country such as the FRG. The issue is even more grave when the weapons are chemical. The historic connotations are so serious that they cannot be tolerated.

[Shilon] Can the FRG Government take legal measures against private companies on this issue?

[Navon] They are limited. The limitations were set by the government. The government has set a series of limitations and made them so severe that at present they foil its attempts. That is why the FRG Government—and we were told so on several occasions—hopes that by Passover of this year the law will be changed so as to enable them to take steps against private companies. [passage omitted]

Arens: Waldegrave Remarks on Shamir 'Defamatory'

TA1801124389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has lashed out at British Minister of State Waldegrave, following the comparison the latter drew between Shamir and 'Arafat. Arens said the comparison is defamatory and offensive. Here is an excerpt of Arens' remarks:

[Begin Arens recording] These defamatory and offensive words were aimed at the State of Israel. Mr Waldegrave must think he has the right to preach morals to us. I doubt that right very much. [end recording]

Shamir on Arens' Remarks, Peres' Travels

TA1801064189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel's new political plan must take into account the aspirations of the Palestinians. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir commented on that and our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack heard his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Look, you have to ask him that; I did not hear precisely what he said. I think, however, that he expressed the approach of the Likud and the Cabinet.

[Birenhack] Is it a new approach?

[Shamir] A new-old one.

[Birenhack] Sir, you have said that the Israeli Government talks to the world with one voice. The finance minister is going abroad tomorrow. Are you concerned with the possibility that he may convey political stands or propose new initiatives there?

[Shamir] No, I do not fear that. I think he will express the Israeli line of thinking as formulated by the broad-based government in its joint platform. [end recording]

Peres To Meet Kohl, Genscher, Mitterrand in FRG

TA1501194789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, will meet with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher this week. Our political correspondent adds that Shim'on Peres is also scheduled to meet with the head of the Polish delegation [not further specified] and with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Mr Peres is leaving for Germany to hold economic discussions. His political meetings have been planned as part of a special event marking former chancellor Willie Brandt's 75th birthday.

To Meet With Gorbachev Aide

TA1701143989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is leaving for West Germany tomorrow. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the visit to Bonn, which is to last till the end of the week, will include a meeting with Valentin Falin, the Soviet leader's foreign affairs adviser. Mr Peres will also meet with the president of France, the prime ministers of Poland and Norway, and the foreign ministers of Sweden and Finland. All these personages will attend the banquet marking former Chancellor Willy Brandt's 75th birthday.

Netanyahu Examines U.S. Skepticism of PLO

TA1601072589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Winding up his visit to the United States, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says that he has encountered a high degree of skepticism toward the PLO's credibility. Yesterday, our New York correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon spoke with Netanyahu in the United States:

[Begin recording] [Eylon] Netanyahu believes that Israel must begin its dialogue with the next administration now and that a vacuum has been created since the elections. He says that the Americans' attitude toward the PLO is still highly skeptical.

[Netanyahu] There is skepticism, to put it mildly, in the U.S. media, administration, and the Jewish community toward the PLO's credibility, seriousness, and the possibility that a basic change in its stands has indeed taken place. I think this skepticism, which I found everywhere, can be augmented and deepened. This is certainly one of the first tasks of Israeli foreign policy.

[Eylon] In his talks with outgoing Secretary of State George Shultz, and with second and third rank representatives of the next administration, Netanyahu attempted to explain that the PLO has not met U.S. conditions.

[Netanyahu] I have certainly found a readiness to listen. On my part, I have updated my assessment of the new U.S. Administration's directions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shomron Links Casualties, U.S. Decision

TA1701162389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron has said that the high number of casualties in the territories in the past month is the result of 'Arafat's recent call to the residents of the territories to stage demonstrations. According to him, 'Arafat derives his power over the residents from the U.S. consent to hold a dialogue with him.

The chief of staff criticized the U.S. decision, saying that he would have been glad if the United States had coordinated the move with Israel. He was addressing a group of 70 Jewish leaders heading the Bonds Independence and Development Loan organization.

Arens Discusses Tabah Talks, Peace Process

TA1601164889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Minister Arens, we are being told that Egypt is not fulfilling its part of the peace agreement with us. Why should we not use Tabah as a bargaining chip?

[Arens] I am not sure that this would be the best way to improve our relations with Egypt, and this is our goal. We have already paid the price for our peace with Egypt, and now we want to make sure that relations will continue to improve and that there is a pattern of relations that will become irreversible.

[Savir] It appears, however, that relations are not improving.

[Arens] They certainly are not living up to our expectations. Unfortunately, if we ask ourselves whether Israeli-Egyptian relations are living up to the expectations we had 10 years ago, when we decided to pay the enormous price of giving up the Sinai and evacuating the Jewish population from the Rafah approaches, I assume that many Israelis would say that they are not meeting our expectations.

[Savir] The Tabah talks will begin on Thursday. What does Israel expect to achieve in these talks?

[Arens] We hope to create conditions that will enable the continued presence of Israelis and tourists from Elat to Tabah without particular problems. We must also solve the issue of compensation, or rather the price Egypt has to pay the owners of the hotel for their assets.

[Shilon] You were referring to Israeli tourists coming to Tabah. What is the difference between Tabah and Cairo as far as the Israeli tourist is concerned?

[Arens] We want to see to it that the formal demands facing the Israeli tourist in Cairo will not face an Elat resident who wants to travel a few minutes distance to the Sonesta Hotel in Tabah.

[Shilon] Why should the Egyptians agree to draw this distinction?

[Arens] We are working under the assumption that the Egyptians are interested in developing bilateral relations just as much as we are, and that they want Tabah to become an example of cooperation between Israel and Egypt. If they do not exhibit this good will, I do not know whether we will be able to reach an arrangement satisfactory to both sides.

[Savir] Minister Sharon wanted to make the Tabah talks with the Egyptians conditional upon improvement in trade relations, normalization of relations, and compensation to the families of the Ra's al-Burqa' victims. The question is whether such a condition should not have been embraced?

[Arens] I am known to be a hawk...

[Shilon, interrupting] Are you not a hawk?

[Arens] Yes, and I am even proud of it. Allow me to say that among all the ministers who participated in the Inner Cabinet session today, I was the only one who voted against the conditions of the Tabah agreement, because I thought these conditions too difficult for us. Once we signed the agreement, however, we are all bound by it, and I am, too. At the same time, however, I did not vote in favor of the arbitration bill as proposed by the Egyptians regarding Tabah.

I voted against it because I was convinced that once we accepted the arbitration bill on the basis of their formulation—which in my opinion was rather artificial and unnatural—we stood a great risk of losing the arbitration. Unfortunately, that is what happened. From the moment we lost the arbitration, however, we had to strive to resolve this issue without conceding our demands.

[Shilon] Mr Arens, we have heard that the prime minister said Israel would agree to a political move in the region under UN auspices. As a hawk, do you accept this?

[Arens] The prime minister said that we are demanding direct negotiations. I do not see any other way to achieve a settlement in our region other than by direct negotiations. The prime minister said he would not oppose these direct negotiations being conducted on the basis of an invitation issued by the UN secretary general. This is similar to the direct negotiations currently being conducted, albeit not very successfully, between Iran and Iraq. I accept the prime minister's proposal.

[Shilon] Once you permit the UN secretary general to send the invitations, however, you cannot supervise the manner in which he chooses to proceed and the parties he invites. Are you not opening the door more than you aimed to?

[Arens] No, I think that the prime minister's position on this issue is perfectly clear. What he meant is for the UN secretary general to invite the parties to the conflict to start holding direct negotiations.

[Shilon] According to him, the PLO, too, is a party to the conflict.

[Arens] Not in the prime minister's opinion, nor in mine.

[Shilon] I am referring to the opinion of the UN secretary general.

[Arens] Perhaps the PLO is a party to the conflict, but not to peace negotiations.

[Savir] And what if it is invited?

[Arens] Then there will be no negotiations.

[Shilon] So you, or rather Israel, will tell the UN secretary general whom to invite to the talks?

[Arens] I think we should clarify the problem here. Some of the elements that are meant to be involved in direct negotiations, such as Jordan, have claimed that it is difficult for them to come directly to these direct negotiations. Perhaps we should make it easier for them by having the invitation to direct negotiations sent from another address. This is what the prime minister talked about, not about inviting to such a forum people who are not at all welcome there.

Communist Party Calls for Renewal of USSR Ties

TA1701100189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The Israel Communist Party, in a major ideological turnaround, no longer holds that withdrawal from the territories must be a precondition for resumption of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Party Secretary-General Me'ir Wilner, MK [Knesset member] issued a call yesterday in Tel Aviv for resumption of such ties, following the Saturday meeting of his party politbureau. He stated that Moscow's rupture of ties in 1967 was "a tactical step taken in the hope of influencing Israel to pull its troops back."

The resumption of ties was timely, Wilner said, in view of a totally new situation created by the PLO's acceptance of the principle of the existence of two states, Jewish and Arab, side by side; the ongoing U.S-PLO dialogue; and the willingness among most Israelis to talk to the PLO.

Significance Seen in PRC Invitation to 'Reunion'

TA1801114089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jan 89 p 12

[Report by New York-based correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Text] In a move that seems to be of political significance, PRC authorities have invited Israelis and Jews of Chinese extraction to celebrate Passover in the PRC at a "reunion" in Shanghai.

It is estimated that several hundred Jews and Israelis of Chinese extraction will leave for their country of origin with the blessing of the PRC authorities. All Israelis will travel on their Israeli passports only. The Chinese have promised the Israelis not to pose any difficulties in issuing visas.

The U.S. Jewish community has already begun preparations for the visit, and preparations are due to begin in Israel with the arrival of Israel's former UN Ambassador Yosef Teqo'a in the next few days to make the arrangements for the Israelis leaving for the PRC.

The Chinese initiated this "reunion" of Jews of Chinese origin in their country and conveyed the proposal through mediators to Teqo'a, who was born in China and left with his family in the mid-1940's. Teqo'a was promised, through the mediators, that the Chinese will not refuse granting entry visas to Israelis of Chinese extraction who would ask to come to Shanghai for the seder night on this year's Passover.

Teqo'a, whose family arrived in China in the early 1920's, yesterday said in New York that the event "constitutes a very positive sign in terms of the PRC attitude to Jews in general and to Israel in particular."

Some compare the surprising PRC invitation to the famous ping-pong game between the United States and the PRC, which signified a rapprochement in relations between the two countries. So far the Chinese have kept a low profile in their relations with Israel. This time, however, they knew that the invitation to the Jews and Israelis would set off a "media festival."

The Jewish-Israeli group will tour the country after the seder night and will also visit Beijing. According to what is known at present, meetings with PRC officials are expected. Teqo'a yesterday stressed that "China is the only country in the world that has never known anti-Semitism." The Jewish community, which numbered some 40,000 members at its peak, left China on the eve of Mao Zedong's rise to power.

Herzog Not Expected To Attend Hirohito Funeral

TA1501105489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jan 89 p 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry announced on Friday that Ambassador to Japan Nahum Eshkol would represent Israel at the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, which is expected to take place in Tokyo at the end of February.

In an official statement, Beit Hanassi [the President's Residence] said Friday that President Herzog had accepted the Foreign Ministry's recommendations that he not go to the funeral.

Officially, the reason for the relatively low-level representation is being tied to the high cost of the trip to Tokyo and the security problems connected to the indirect flights there.

But the real reason appears to be that a prominent Israeli representation is considered inappropriate, given Hirohito-led Japan's World War II alliance with Nazi Germany.

The ministry has been carefully monitoring the attitudes of some 30 countries worldwide towards the funeral. Ministry officials felt that although Friday's decision might meet with some criticism in Japan, a high-visibility delegation to the funeral would be subject to even harsher criticism both here and by Jewish leaders abroad.

A Foreign Ministry official pointed out on Friday that the president had sent his heartfelt condolences to the Imperial Family and the Japanese people, and that he was the first citizen to sign the condolences book at the Japanese Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Envoy Presents Shamir Message to Zambia's Kaunda

TA1401183189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The TIMES OF ZAMBIA says Israel is seeking to reestablish diplomatic ties. Israeli special envoy David Kimche yesterday presented Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda with a message from Prime Minister Shamir that could lead to restoration of relations.

Central African Republic Decides To Restore Ties

TA1601173589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Central African Republic has decided to restore diplomatic relations with Israel. This was announced officially in Bangui, the capital. Our political correspondent reports that Jerusalem has welcomed the announcement. A senior Foreign Ministry official is now in Bangui, completing preparations for the opening of the embassy.

Internal Candidate Seems 'Certain' as Mosad Head

TA1801085289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Alex Fishman and Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The candidate for head of the Mosad who came from outside the institution and who was supported by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was dropped a few days ago.

Now there is only one prominent candidate left in the race: the internal candidate, who is one of the highest-ranking Mosad members. This candidate was recommended by the present Mosad chief and has the support of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who knows him from the days when they served in the Mosad together.

Sources close to the internal candidate last night told HADASHOT that his chances of getting the job are excellent and that they are under the impression that the appointment will be made very soon. Last night the choice of the internal candidate seemed certain.

Before the decision, Likud and right-wing personnel pressured Yitzhaq Shamir in order to prevent the nomination of the external candidate. These circles have criticized the way he conducts his present job. Shamir rejected the pressure outright, and on several occasions expressed his appreciation of the external candidate, with whom he was closely familiar in the past few years.

The external candidate will continue holding his present high-level position outside the Mosad. Defense Minister Rabin, who supported his candidacy for Mosad head, has also expressed his appreciation to him.

Shamir Says No More Ministerial Appointments

TA1601134589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 89 p 10

[Report by Dan Petreanu]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that the plans for the Likud and Labour to each appoint a twelfth minister were "no longer relevant."

80 Golan Heights Druze Permitted To Visit Syria

TA1601080289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli authorities have issued 80 more permits to Golan Heights Druze to make family visits in Syria. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the requests of the Druze were relayed by the International Red Cross for the approval of the Syrian authorities. This is the highest number of requests approved so far.

Some 500 more Druze have applied to the Interior Ministry for similar permits.

Syrians Said To Destroy 4 Hizballah Positions

TA1601131289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Syrian soldiers pulled out of the Shi'ite village of Suhmur in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon and returned to their base in the town of Al-Mashharah. They stayed in the village for approximately 8 hours.

Sources in southern Lebanon told our correspondent that the Syrian soldiers blew up 4 Hizballah positions in the village and made it clear to the villagers they will not tolerate battles between the Shi'ite factions in this region.

Syria Maintains Hermon Deployment Despite Winter

TA1801092189 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Excerpt] IDF troops stationed on Mount Hermon posts overlooking Syrian positions report that the Syrians have greatly improved the soldiers' living conditions, thus enabling the troops to remain at the site throughout the winter. In the past, the Syrian positions were abandoned with the advent of cold weather.

A military source believes that this development reflects the significance the Syrians attach to their part of the Hermon. On the Syrian Golan, on the other hand, Syrian troops still live under difficult conditions in the absence of any modern means for winter survival.

The IDF is prepared for any terrorist infiltration attempt from the Hermon slopes and for any possible Syrian moves indicating the launching of a war. All IDF soldiers stationed in Hermon posts, including those trained for specific duties, have been trained for any possible military attack. The posts are guarded by specially trained units, which maintain a high level of alert. [passage omitted]

IDF Expects Increase in Terrorist Attacks

TA1501065489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] The IDF is following the fights between Amal and Hizballah in southern Lebanon with great interest. An official source in the IDF believes that Palestinian terror organizations will increase their attack attempts in the wake of the agreement they have reached with Amal.

This source told our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that Israel cannot accept the situation of Amal allowing Palestinians to act against it. The source also anticipates that despite 'Arafat's statements in Geneva, his organization as well will attempt attacks against the IDF and the South Lebanese Army in the security zone in southern Lebanon.

Paper Analyzes South Lebanese Army

TA1601153989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 89 p 11

[Commentary by Dan Sagir: "A Rehabilitated SLA"]

[Text] Approximately 2 years ago, the militia Israel organized in southern Lebanon, which was pretentiously called the South Lebanese Army [SLA], faced the danger of collapse following a series of successful attacks on its posts and villages by Shi'ite organizations. Between September 1986 and February 1987 (until IDF forces arrived) several SLA posts had been overrun, the SLA had lost some 100 people, and many hundreds had been wounded.

At this point, the IDF Northern Command's senior echelon—with the deep involvement of Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in southern Lebanon—reassessed the SLA's situation and role, as well as the amount of aid it should receive.

The first goal was to bring about a situation in which the SLA's military capabilities would reduce the need for IDF units inside the security zone. In these stages, people talked about transferring to the SLA jobs the IDF had been doing. To strengthen the SLA's military power, a rehabilitation plan was prepared 2 years ago.

In the first stage, some 800 veterans, some of them from Major Haddad's days, were discharged because of their advanced age. Attempts were made to start building a disciplined army rather than another typical Lebanese militia. The recruitment age was limited to between 17 to 24 years, and the basic training period was extended from 10 days to 3 and ½ months. Youths were sent to various command courses: for squad, platoon, and company commanders. Other soldiers underwent professional courses in communications, artillery, and tanks.

The SLA currently numbers 2,315 soldiers organized in 2 brigade groups, including battalions organized according to geographical areas of responsibility made up of soldiers living in nearby villages. SLA posts that had been attacked many times, some of which had even been easily seized, were fortified in the IDF style.

The Lebanese soldiers have learned from the IDF the combat doctrine on how to defend a post against various forms of attack. The routine of maintaining a post, discipline, and procedures have also been acquired from the IDF, with necessary adjustments. In addition to the fortification network, the SLA also has two artillery batteries that it received from the IDF. The batteries consist of towed guns, which cover the entire area of southern Lebanon and sometimes even reach beyond (155-mm and smaller guns).

After the IDF provided the training, the appropriate weapons, and the means to defend itself, the SLA's goals were redefined: to man posts in all the topographically prominent positions in the area, to open up traffic routes (clearing them of bombs and ambushes), and to lay ambushes along routes used by terrorist squads on their way to carry out attacks in the security zone or in Israel. In the past 2 years, the SLA has not been asked to carry out missions it is not prepared for.

The communal and religious composition of the SLA is one of the important elements for its future success. The aim is to have the SLA faithfully reflect the population structure in the area. In the past, the SLA was composed mainly of Christian soldiers, whereas most of the villagers in southern Lebanon are Muslim Shi'ites—only a minority are Christian. This made it very difficult to obtain the backing and support of the local population.

In the framework of the reorganization, it was decided to recruit as many Shi'ites as possible, at the expense of Christian soldiers. At present, the SLA has 58.5 percent Christians, 23.5 percent Shi'ites, 13 percent Druze, and 5 percent Sunni soldiers. The IDF wants to raise the percentage of Shi'ites, especially at the command level, including the most senior posts.

Senior security elements believe that the circumstances surrounding the attempt on General Lahd's life approximately 3 months ago and the ensuing events indicate that the SLA's rehabilitation plan is proceeding in the right direction. According to them, the fact that the young woman who shot Lahd is still alive and was not lynched immediately after she was caught indicates that the IDF's values are starting to make their influence.

The security elements noted that people in the SLA realize that Israel expects the assailant to be treated decently in the future as well; the same holds true for the other people jailed in the Al-Khiyam prison, in which the SLA is holding hostile elements and criminals. Throughout Lahd's hospitalization in Haifa, the SLA continued to function normally, Lahd's place being filled by one of the two brigade commanders.

The budget for the SLA is channeled through the liaison unit for southern Lebanon under the command of Brigadier General Ze'ev Zakharin. Next year's budget for the liaison unit totals 6.15 million shekels. Of this, 4.36 million shekels is set aside for SLA soldiers' salaries. The basic monthly pay for a combat soldier is $130; a noncombat soldier earns $100. With seniority and rank increments, the average salary stands at about $140 per month. The fact that several of their family members are allowed to cross to Israel daily to work in agriculture or in plants in the north is a considerable benefit extended to SLA soldiers. The number of those employed in Israel currently stands at about 2,000 southern Lebanese who cross the border daily.

Other money channeled to the SLA goes to remuneration amounting to 370,000 new shekels annually for the families of the dead (173 since 1985) and the wounded (590 since 1985), and funds for construction and weapons.

Southern Lebanon has a "Voice of the South" radio station that has been in operation for 3 years now.

The station was set up at Israel's initiative in order to broadcast to the residents of the south and especially to appeal to the Shi'ites in the south who do not listen to the Voice of Hope radio station, which conveys Christian messages. The SLA has a public relations department that is theoretically in charge of this radio station, as well as of the Voice of Hope and the Middle East Television network.

The interest of those serving in the SLA is not solely economic. They aspire to achieve the kind of calm and quality life that are not attainable in other parts of Lebanon. It is for this reason, so a senior defense element believes, that along with strengthening the SLA, Israel should invest large sums of money for the general well-being of the population in the security zone. According to this defense element, a situation in which local residents launch an intifadah [uprising] of their own against the IDF and the SLA should be prevented. Roads should be improved, health and education services should be expanded, and employment options should be increased.

To this end, the IDF and the Defense Ministry need the help of the other government ministries. This is barely extended, however, mainly because of the Israeli establishment's lack of awareness of the importance of the issue. The aid mechanism was modeled on the Civil Administration in the territories, and its budget this year stands at 3 million shekels, a rather small sum for a region with a population of about 200,000 residents.

One should acknowledge this fact, however unpleasant it may be. Israel has annexed to its territory sizable parts of southern Lebanon and has even given them a name: the security zone. With the situation in Lebanon currently being what it is, it seems that this de facto annexation will last many years.

Therefore, there is much to be said for giving orderly thought to increasing—directly or indirectly—the budgets for the well-being of the population subject to Israel's rule, through the SLA. A pressured and distressed population can rebel, and the price of suppressing the uprising is many times larger, as we have learned in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Minister Urges Increased Arab Development Funds

JN1501204289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Ehud Olmert, minister in charge of Arab citizens at the Prime Ministry, has submitted a plan to Finance Minister Shim'on Peres calling for 70 million shekels to be added to the budgets of the Arab and Druze communities. Our correspondent for domestic affairs, 'Umar Zaydani, reports:

In accordance with the law on development villages and a government decision of April 1987 according the Druze community a status equal to that of the Jewish sector, we will strive, in the words of the minister in charge of Arab affairs at the Prime Ministry, until all Druze and Circassian villages are declared development villages.

This is just one item of the plan devised by Minister Olmert to improve the finances of the Arab and Druze local authorities that he submitted to Finance Minister Shim'on Peres. The plan envisages allocating another 70 million shekels for the Arab and Druze communities. Olmert is opposed to any cutbacks in the appropriations for the Arab communitiy. Indeed, he is pressing for boosting allocations, especially those dedicated to development and services infrastructure.

In the Druze community, appropriations will be earmarked for rehabilitating demobilized soldiers, building an additional 200 classrooms over a 5-year span, as well as streamlining welfare facilities and expanding the industrial infrastructure.

In the Arab community, Olmert's plan features an increase of 150 classrooms, aside from another 100 whose construction is being financed by the Ministry of Education and Culture. [passage omitted]

'Senior' PLO Official on Provisional Government

TA1601125489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Michel Zlotowski]

[Text] Paris—The PLO is planning to set up a provisional government under Yasir 'Arafat in the coming months, a senior PLO official told THE JERUSALEM POST over the weekend.

Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestine National Council's political committee, heads the team working on the proposed body's guidelines. He was in Paris for last week's conference on a Middle East peace settlement, which was also attended by four Knesset members.

"This is going to be a provisional government, which is not going to replace the PLO completely. The PLO is going to remain as the political alliance of the Palestinian parties," Sha'th told THE POST.

"We do not believe in a one-party system. Democracy has its price but the price you pay without it is much heavier.

"This provisional government is going to be the government of the Palestinians until the state of Palestine is set up in the land of Palestine," Sha'th added. He said that to date the Palestinian cause had been the concern of the PLO which did not have adequate institutions to deal with most of the Palestinians' problems. "Definitely, with the provisional government, there will be more attention and better institutions."

Sha'th added: "I think that the provisional government is also much needed for the process of negotiations. When we go to the international conference, we ought to be represented by a full government even though it will be a provisional one.

"According to the PNC resolutions, the (PNC's) executive committee will form the government, but it is the central council elected by the PNC which will decide whether to give it a vote of confidence or not.

"The PLO will remain the final authority," Sha'th stressed. "It will delegate its executive responsibilities to the government. Many of those responsibilities have not been adequately assigned so far."

Asked who would chair the provisional government, Sha'th told THE POST: "'Arafat would tell you he would not answer that question because this is basically a democracy. You never know who it's going to be until the last moment."

Pressed to "try and guess," Sha'th laughed and said: "Yasir 'Arafat."

Palestinian Notables on Proposed Elections

JN1601155089 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The subject of elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is attracting the attention of public opinion in the territories in light of the PLO's agreement in principle to hold these elections under certain conditions. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem asked the opinion of three notables: Hanna al-Atrash, Bayt Sahur mayor; Dr Riyad al-Agha from the Gaza Strip; and lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah from Gaza.

[Begin recording] [Abu Rahmah] This call for elections was one of 14 clauses. If all the clauses are agreed upon, it will be possible to reach an agreement. But you cannot take one clause and call for its implementation alone.

[Ben-Menahem] But how, in principle, do you view the possibility of representational or local municipal elections?

[Abu Rahmah] Elections will be good if the situation is good and normal. But when the situation is not normal, such elections will achieve nothing. We in the Gaza Strip have had no elections since 1945. We have put up with this and can wait some more until a democratic atmosphere is available.

[Al-Agha] In fact, this demand was previously a popular one, and we support elections on the condition that they are not finally intended to project Palestinian elements or leaders from the territories with the aim of holding talks or dialogue with the Israeli side. We favor democracy and giving political freedom to the Palestinian people.

[Ben-Menahem] But how do you view the possibility of holding elections in the territories? How, in your opinion, should they be held?

[Al-Agha] I think elections should be held in the presence of a neutral committee to supervise them so that there will be no pretext for the Israeli authorities to interfere in the results.

[Ben-Menahem] Such as the American authorities?

[Al-Agha] Any neutral authorities acceptable to the concerned parties.

[Ben-Menahem] There is a possibility of representational elections, and there is a possibility of local municipal elections. How do you view the two?

[Al-Agha] I think that elections, be they municipal or political, are the same because the municipalities are still playing a role, as they did in the past. Besides the social role they play and the services they render, the municipalities, the heads of municipalities, or the elected municipal councils are still playing a political role. I believe this role is the same whether it is political or municipal.

[Al-Atrash] It is true that there are internationally supervised elections, but the proposal did not specify international or noninternational supervision. They call for elections. In my personal opinion, this is wrong. First of all, if elections are held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, only the inhabitants of these two areas will be represented. Palestinians abroad will not participate in the elections.

They believe that the organization is legitimate and that it is their representative, just as those in the territories. I believe that any elections in the West Bank to choose representatives in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be meant to replace the organization and give legitimacy to the ones who win.

[Ben-Menahem] Suppose the organization consented to calling elections in the territories.

[Al-Atrash] This is up to the organization. However, I will stress this point: Personally, I do not think the organization will supplant itself with people elected under occupation.

[Al-Agha] Selecting the personalities is indeed up to the Palestinian leadership under considerations of its own. However, personally speaking, I do not favor the formation of a Palestinian government at this time, or, for that matter, the choice of members from inside...

[Ben-Menahem interrupting] Why, why?

[Al-Agha] There is still time for the peace initiative to crystallize. There has not yet been any tangible progress on that score. This is my viewpoint.

[Abu Rahmah] Over the past few months, the names of figures from the West Bank and Gaza have been mentioned as potential members of the provisional Palestinian government comprising personalities from within and abroad. I see this lineup as workable. The government will not be confined to people only from abroad. It will also include members from within, which is a good thing.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you think such representation will meet the popular will here in the territories?

[Abu Rahmah] The people will go along with whatever meets the approval of the PLO.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you think a truce will, for example, open the way for political consultations?

[Al-Agha] A truce will have to be guaranteed by international parties. A truce must be struck between two sides showing mutual good faith in it. There is mutual distrust between the Israeli and Palestinian or Arab Palestinian sides. We want to make a real, durable, and comprehensive peace for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples as well as for the adjacent Arab states.

[Abu Rahmah] As I have said, the notion of a truce must be agreed upon. There must be conditions. Each party will have its own conditions.

[Ben-Menahem] What kind of conditions?

[Abu Rahmah] I mean, for example, Israel's recognition of the PLO will be one of the conditions. There are other conditions—that a meeting, agreement, and many other things should take place.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you think that truce is a realistic approach?

[Al-Agha] Should it win a consensus among the parties, the truce is a good idea.

[Al-Atrash] My idea of a truce is one struck between two states that are in actual existence. There must be armistice lines like those separating Syria and Israel and Jordan and Israel. What are we to make of the truce here? In any case, if...

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] Do you mean to say a truce would be unrealistic?

[Al-Atrash] No, I did not say the idea is unrealistic. I don't have a study on such a project, so I don't have any information on this.

[Ben-Menahem] Let me ask you a straight question: What do you think of the idea proposed by Mr Ilyas Frayj?

[Al-Atrash] I would rather the question be put to Mr Ilyas Frayj himself. He is a sensible, sober man who can answer all these questions.

[Al-Agha] As a matter of fact, Mr Ilyas Frayj is a politically experienced, patriotic man. I think, however, that he was hasty and failed to present an integrated framework for the initiative. It was incomplete. [end recording]

'State of Judaea' Planners Outline Principles

TA1701100989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] The new "State of Judaea" to be established in the territories will be based on the laws of the Torah, will deny national rights to the overwhelming Arab majority, and will strive to merge with the State of Israel, the planners of the new "nation" proclaimed yesterday.

They told a press conference at the Jerusalem Hilton yesterday that their first Congress, scheduled for tomorrow at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem, would declare the group's intention to establish the new state. They stressed they will be "creating the state, not yet declaring it." The "state" will formally come into being if and when the IDF withdraws from administered territories, they said.

A statement released to the press said: "We are building, quickly and methodically, the infrastructure of the state: registration of citizens, elections of a provisional assembly and government; ministries and programmes. We are creating the trappings of a government and all its symbols: citizenship cards, stamps, a flag. They do not yet constitute a state, but rather an infrastructure that is waiting for the moment of realization and implementation."

The three speakers at yesterday's press conference were all supporters of KAKH Party leader Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Asked whether the new state would be theocratic, the group's leader, Rabbi Mikha'el Ben-Horin, told THE JERUSALEM POST that it will not be ruled by Kohanim, the priestly clan. Nevertheless, "the state will follow the laws of the Torah."

Asked if non-Jews would have national rights there, Ben-Horin said that Halakah does not give national rights to any minority. Non-Jews would be tolerated in the State of Judaea, as long as they obeyed its laws, but the speakers strongly suggested the Palestinians would be better off elsewhere.

Asked what they would do if the IDF was ordered to evacuate the territories and evict them, as settlers were evicted in Yamit, Ben-Horin said the Yamit story would not be repeated. "At Yamit, a messiah starred. He was called Al-Sadat. I saw with my own eyes how people in Beersheba gathered round the buses of the journalists (accompanying him) and kissed the wheels. That's not the situation today."

But when pressed to say whether they would take up arms, Ben-Horin said: "The question is hypothetical."

Ben-Horin acknowledged that the idea for the state was raised in 1975 by Rabbi Meir Kahane, and that the KAKH leader, whose racist preachings disqualified him from running in the last elections, influenced the decision to create the state.

Strassnoff Gives Data on Trials, Sentences

TA1801120389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jan p 12

[Report by Oscar Franklin]

[Excerpts] The punishment for stone-throwing in the administered territories has become more severe lately, but the average sentence in the military courts—four to five months in jail—is still more lenient than that usually imposed by Israeli courts for the same offence.

This was stated yesterday by the IDF judge advocate general, Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Amnon Strassnoff, during a debate on the military courts in the territories which was organized by the central committee of the Israel Bar.

Strassnoff noted that 8,000 Palestinians have been tried for taking part in disturbances since December 1987, when the intifadah [uprising] began; half of these trials have been completed. Only 5 per cent of the defendants were found not guilty.

He admitted that conditions in the military courts are difficult, because of the large number of cases, the shortage of suitable premises, and the problem of summoning as witnesses reserve soldiers who have already completed their period of duty.

The IDF intends to speed up the judicial process for those who are caught red-handed, bringing them to court within a few days of their arrest.

Strassnoff said the number of administrative detainees had been significantly reduced to 1,000, from about five times that number. Appeal procedures had been speeded up, with every appeal being considered within two or three weeks of submission. Between 25 and 30 per cent of the appeals had been upheld. In April a new military appeals court will begin operating in the territories. [passage omitted]

Strassnoff indicated yesterday that the IDF had begun implementing the High Court recommendations concerning Qezi'ot.

IDF To Use 'Denser,' 'More Accurate' Bullets

TA1701073089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The IDF has introduced a new type of rubber bullet into use. Our military correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the bullet is denser and is therefore more accurate and causes graver injuries than the bullets formerly in use.

Measures Against Stonethrowers Include Snipers

TA1801120689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] Defense establishment sources yesterday reported on the main components of the new measures the security authorities intend to take to end the stone-throwing phenomenon in the territories.

—Apprehension: Soldiers will be instructed to apprehend stonethrowers whenever possible and to bring them to trial.

—Shooting
bullets at s: Soldiers will be authorized to fire plastic
mortal dan onethrowers even in situations not involving
bullets. An ger. NCO's, too, will be allowed to fire plastic
rized to fi ong other measures, personnel will be autho-
stonethrow e at demonstrators who have not engaged in
fire at den ing. More snipers will be employed; they will
use of new onstrators from a distant hiding place. The
include pla kinds of ammunition will be expanded to
set up at lo stic-coated metal marbles. Ambushes will be
cations where stonethrowing incidents recur.

—Intellige
increase it nce: The General Security Service will
stonethrow efforts to gather information on individual
that activit ers, focusing on organizations specializing in
y.

—Punishm
be meted o ents: Stiffer punishments than in the past will
tive measu ut to offenders and will include administra-
as well as a ires against stonethrowers and their families,
were throw gainst buildings or sites from which the stones
demand sw n. Military prosecutors will be instructed to
belonging tiffer sentences for stonethrowers. Houses
casualties to the families of stonethrowers who caused
wers whose will be demolished. The houses of stonethro-
e acts caused property damage will be sealed.
The new l
stonethrow aw allowing fines to be issued to parents of
handed w ing minors (under 12) who are caught red-
belonging ill be enforced more frequently. Property
confiscated to stonethrowers and their families may be
are repeate in the future. Buildings from which stones
Administra dly thrown may be demolished. The Civil
against the ation will employ administrative measures
families of stonethrowers more frequently.

—Trials: M
erence to t Military courts will be instructed to give pref-
up a summ e trials of suspected stone throwers and to set
ary trial mechanism for this offense.

—Preventi
in sensitive on: The number of military observation posts
to attack, w areas, where Israeli vehicles are often subject
locations. will be increased. Snipers will be placed at such

One of our reasons for dealing with this squad in a tougher manner was to demonstrate our determination and commitment to confronting the problem of stonethrowing. We have incorporated an entire series of measures to handle stonethrowers. These include a special investigative outfit, whose job is identifying and locating the perpetrators; a more expedient judicial process; and a standing request that the military prosecution demand stiffer sentences for those convicted of stonethrowing. This is the best way to reach the stonethrowers themselves and make them pay the price for their actions.

We have recently expanded the means at the soldiers' disposal—including rubber and plastic bullets—and have allowed more people in more varied conditions to use them. These measures have proved effective as a deterrent in dealing with violent situations.

I am sorry to say that schools that were only recently reopened are being used to launch stonethrowing attacks on public and private transportation. After successive warnings and summonings of the school headmasters proved futile, we were compelled to close several schools for lengthy periods, some even permanently. We will continue to take selective action against those schools in which teachers and parents do not assume control.

[Toren] You spoke of calculated stonethrowings. Is this a local occurrence typical only of Qalqilyah, or is it known to take place throughout the rest of the territories?

[Mitzna'] We certainly have noticed that stonethrowers occasionally include a kid who spontaneously picks up a stone, but most instances are organized and planned. This occurs throughout Judaea and Samaria, but is a more established practice in Qalqilyah. That is why we made an example of it, so that the rest of the Arab population will not attempt to test us on this issue.

[Toren] Can one say that this will also be the future reaction to spontaneous stonethrowing?

[Mitzna'] Undoubtedly. I have explained the various means at our disposal. Stone throwing remains the main problem, and we will enforce all of them—strict punishments, investigations, and preemptive measures—everywhere, so that this behavior, which the insurgents supposedly considered legitimate, is understood to be completely unacceptable to us. [end recording]

TA1701094 **Mitzna' on Offensive**
0600 GMT 189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
17 Jan 89

[Text] The
in Qalqilya recent exposure of a squad of stonethrowers
dling of the ah constitutes a milestone in the IDF's han-
General 'Ae problem of violence in the territories, Major
Command, Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central
correspond , stated this morning in an interview with our
lent Yaron Toren.

[Begin reco
the result ording] [Mitzna'] The exposure of the squad is
of operatio a more comprehensive and systematic mode
in order to n, which we began enforcing a few weeks ago
ing, which overcome the violent problem of stonethrow-
unsolved. continues to disturb us and still remains

Stiffer Penalties Considered
TA1601150789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The defense establishment is considering changing its policy in the territories because of the numerous stonethrowing incidents. At the defense establishment's instruction, the military judge advocate's office has begun examining proposals to subject stonethrowers to serious penalties within the code of military laws. It is

proposed that a 5-year prison term be handed down on stonethrowers who inflict serious injuries, and that their houses be either torn down or sealed up. The defense establishment is also considering sealing up shops from which stones are thrown. The parents of minors who are involved in stonethrowing will be obliged to pay high fines.

Uri Ari'el, secretary of the Council of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Settlements, told our correspondent Moti Amir that besides the struggle against the stonethrowers, instigatory newspapers in East Jerusalem should be closed down and harsher measures taken against instigators and rioters.

Special Units To Serve in Territories

TA1701100789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] Because of the intensive activity in the territories, the IDF will exceed its original projection for the current work year, which ends on 31 March, by 150,000 reserve duty days. In an effort to cut back the reservists' role in overall IDF activity in the territories, which places a relatively heavy burden on the defense budget, it has recently been decided that special standing army units will be set up specifically for that purpose.

The troops will undergo basic infantry training, after which they will be trained in a special program that will qualify them to handle events in the territories. In this way, the routine combat unit training programs will be less affected. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 17 January adds that "the IDF has decided that reservists should serve about 45 days in the working year that begins in April 1989: half of them in operational duty in the territories and along the Lebanese border and the other half in training and preparations for war."]

Popular Committees Emerging in Territories

TA1601160889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Jan 89 p 12

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] Since the beginning of January a change has taken place in the structure and deployment of the popular committees subject to the Unified National Command of the Uprising, resulting in the establishment of regional committees comprising several villages for the purpose of joint activity, such as staging joint demonstrations and providing mutual aid, among the residents of different villages.

The goal of the committees is to create a centralized regional leadership to disseminate accurate guidelines regarding the instructions published in leaflets by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Palestinian sources said that the committees emerged in order to strengthen the national institutions set up since the beginning of the uprising and in order to maintain the achievements scored during the 1st year.

In addition, the sources said that the emergence of these committees can be seen against the background of the demand published in the latest leaflet calling for the establishment of new bodies, such as an army and popular courts. Small villages in the territories will remain in an independent framework.

Arab sources said that besides organizing mass demonstrations, as was the case in the Ramallah area at the beginning of January, where a joint demonstration by five villages took place, the policy of the committees is reflected in aid to villages subject to curfews—for instance, collecting agricultural produce, marketing it and transferring the funds to the producing farmers, irrigating the fields, and carrying out additional maintenance work.

A joint demonstration by hundreds of students from five villages in the Hebron Hills area was staged in the village of Tarqumiyah yesterday morning. Residents from Bayt Kahil and Idnah participated in the demonstration, which was split into separate marches led by strike forces, students, and trade union members. The participants spoke in favor of the martyrs of the uprising and against cooperation with Israel, clearly mentioning the name of one such collaborator in the area. The students were also congratulated on their support for the uprising.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Bus Burned in East Jerusalem

TA1601173289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown early this evening at a No 23 bus that was traveling through the Al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the bus caught fire, slightly wounding the driver who was rushed to the hospital. There were no passengers on the bus.

Gaza Strip Schools Reopen

TA1601211789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that classes resumed in the Gaza Strip today following the winter vacation. A commercial strike is continuing in the town of Gaza. The strike was declared by the merchants in protest against the high taxes levied on them.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 16 January adds that "a curfew was imposed on Qalqilyah this evening. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. The reason for the curfew was not stated."]

Stonethrowers' Homes Razed

TA1701054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Security forces have destroyed the houses of three Qalqilyah residents and sealed two more buildings. The buildings belong to members of a local group in Qalqilyah that was recently exposed by the security forces. Our reporter says they are suspected of several rock-throwing incidents against Israeli vehicles in Qalqilyah. A month ago they stoned an Israeli car, injuring two passengers. Our reporter adds that recently senior officials have ordered the security forces to take a tougher stand against rockthrowers. Last night a curfew was imposed on Qalqilyah.

Man Sentenced to 10 Years

TA1701110789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The Tel Aviv District Court this morning sentenced Salah Hasan Sa'id to 10 years imprisonment. Sa'id, a resident of the Nur-al-Shams refugee camp, was convicted of attempting to murder an IDF officer and steal his weapon. The incident took place approximately 1 year ago on Tchernichowsky Street in Kefar Sava. Sa'id attacked Yuval Livne, an IDF officer, with a kitchen knife. The attempt failed when the officer resisted, and the attacker was subsequently arrested and imprisoned.

Bedouin Villagers Arrested

TA1701111789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Seven residents of the bedouin village of Tuba in the Upper Galilee were arrested last night. They are suspected of trying to force the imam to broadcast anti-Israeli propaganda. When the imam refused, the men severely beat his young son and afterward burned his house down. Anti-Israeli propaganda was uncovered during searches of the suspects' residences.

Disturbances in West Bank

TA1701114789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Disturbances and numerous instances of stonethrowing took place last night in 'Anabta in Samaria. Several Israeli cars were damaged. The security forces attempted to disperse the stonethrowers by using tear gas and shooting in the air.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the riot began after three young men were arrested. The three are among the leaders of the popular committees and had been wanted from the start of the uprising. Their names are: Hilli Hanun, Hasan Farid Kan'an, and Asad Abdul Rahim Asad.

Settlers Issue Statement

TA1701145289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria Council contends that the measures recently adopted by the defense establishment are too little, too late. In a statement released this afternoon, the Judaea and Samaria Council says that the defense establishment, along with the prime minister and the Cabinet, have to prepare a comprehensive plan aimed at ending the uprising.

That plan, according to the settlers council, should include the elimination of the centers of incitement—including those in East Jerusalem—the closure of newspapers, and the deportation of inciters—particularly those released in the exchange deal with Jibril. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

7 Schools Closed in West Bank

TA1701143789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The Civil Administration today closed down seven high schools in Tubas, Bayt Sahur, and Al-'Arrub in Hebron. The closure was because of the recent participation of the schools in disturbances.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that during the past week the Civil Administration closed down 33 high schools. Sources in the administration have said that if the schools do not calm down they will be closed down for good and the students will lose an academic year.

3 Reported Killed

TA1701175789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpts] There are reports this evening that three youths were killed in the territories during riots today. Two of them—according to hospital sources—were shot today, both in the north: Samir al-Qasim, 17, from Janin, and Ibrahim Abu-Ziyami from the Farah refugee camp in Samaria. According to local residents, the two were killed by IDF soldiers' gunfire. Military sources, however, have not yet issued an authorized announcement. A third youth, from the Bani Na'im village in Samaria, who was wounded 10 days ago during a riot, died today in an East Jerusalem hospital.

Apart from the three killed, there have been reports of at least 10 wounded in the territories, 5 of them in the Gaza Strip. Disturbances occurred in several other places in the territories, such as 'Anabta, and shots were heard in Nabulus as well. [passage omitted] The Gaza Strip was relatively quiet today. In the city, however, a commercial strike was staged. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 17 January adds: "Five residents of Gaza were wounded by IDF soldiers' gunfire during riots in the Strip today. One of the wounded, a 17-year-old youth from the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza, was wounded severely. Curfews were lifted in most of the Gaza Strip, save Khan Yunus city in the Strip."]

Soldier Escapes Attack

TA1701204489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] A short while ago an unidentified assailant tried to stab an IDF soldier waiting for a ride at the 'Atlit junction. The soldier escaped to a nearby Army camp and called the police. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the police started searches and no suspects have yet been detained.

This evening near Herod's Gate in East Jerusalem an Egged bus was stoned. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that one of the passengers was slightly injured and several of the bus windows were shattered.

In the village of Sur Bahir, south of Jerusalem, an Israeli car was pelted with rocks this evening. The driver was slightly wounded and the car's windshield was damaged.

In another East Jerusalem neighborhood, a youth was severely injured during a riot. A group of girl students were throwing stones at cars passing on Al-Hariri street. They were joined by a group of youths. They also set garbage cans on fire. A police force arrived at the site and fired tear gas grenades at the rioters. The youths started to run away and one of them fell from a school wall and injured his head. He was hospitalized in Al-Maqasid Hospital in serious condition.

This evening a stone was thrown at an Israeli car in downtown Haifa. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the stone smashed the car's windshield but no one was hurt. The police began searches and are investigating whether the incident had a nationalistic background.

7 'Organizers' Injured

TA1801071689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] The curfew imposed yesterday on Khan Yunus has been lifted, but new curfews were clamped this morning on two problematic refugee camps: Al-Shati' in Gaza City and Al-Nusayrat in the central Gaza Strip.

In the process of yesterday's ... Strip, seven locals were injur... the organizers of stone-thro... them was hospitalized in a... others—from Al-Shati' and A... ized in a Gaza hospital.

...'s disturbances in the Gaza ...ured. They were identified as ...owing disturbances. One of ...an Israeli hospital and two Al-Nusayrat—were hospital-

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 18 January, in a report by Mikh...chal Sela' on pages 1 and 12, sums up the 17 January even... "In the Gaza Strip, at least ...nts in the territories, adding: wounded in clashes at the A... it 18 persons were shot and Rafah camps. Several more... Al-Nusayrat, Al-Buraij, and Palestinian sources to have... e people were reported by metal-rubber bullets and bea... ...e been slightly injured by ...catings."]

This morning, most of the C... their jobs in Israel, fearing a g... Gaza Strip residents left for local organizations for the fo... general strike planned by the liable to prevent them fro... forthcoming weekend that is 5-day-old commercial stri... m going out to work. The noticeable in the streets of G... ike, which is particularly Friday. Gaza City, is due to end this

Firebombs Th... thrown at Bus

TA1801082089 Jerusalem D... Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Two Molotov cocktail... ...ils were thrown this morning at a Dan bus transporting Ar... rab laborers to work in Israel as it was passing the Rama... allah district village of Dayr Abu Mash'al. The driver ... and one of the passengers sustained light burns and r... received medical treatment. Our correspondent Arye G... us reports that the bus was completely burned. The inj... jured were treated at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tiqva... a and were later released.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in He... ebrew at 0730 GMT on 18 January in a report on the te... rritories, adds: "The curfews in Tulkarm and the adjacen... t refugee camps are entering their 7th day this morning. I... IDF soldiers are carrying out initiated activities in Tulkar... rm, searching for people who incite residents to stage dist... turbances."]

East Jerusalem ... Schools Closed

TA1801130489 Tel Aviv IDF... F Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Report by Shlomi Stein]

[Excerpts] Merely 1 week ... after the police used the emergency regulations to im... pose a curfew in East Jerusalem, the same regulations ... have been used again. Under an order signed by 'Amram ... Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, th... e East Jerusalem Dayr al-'Aytam School was closed ... for 30 days. The closure followed numerous instanc... es of rioting at the school. The police had warned th... e school directors that the school would be closed dow... n if the disturbances continued, but the warnings did n... o good.

Several incidents involving stone throwing were recorded in East Jerusalem today. Policemen were pelted with stones in the vicinity of the Ma'amuniyah school. They used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the rioters and detained eight of them. [passage omitted]

Curfews have been clamped on the Jabalyah, Al-Shati', and Khan Yunus refugee camps in the Gaza Strip in the wake of yesterday's riots. Laborers from the rest of the Gaza Strip left for their jobs in Israel. Many of them have recently taken to leaving for work in the evening, because in the morning they are likely to encounter organized youths throwing stones at their vehicles and threatening them against leaving for work in Israel.

The general strike is in its 5th day, chiefly on the main streets of Gaza and Khan Yunus; its scope has diminished in the suburbs.

During the past 2 days, the security forces have detained several dozen youths caught throwing stones. The local population has been warned that the parents would have to pay a high bail for the release of these detainees until legal proceedings against them are started. Trials of youths detained previously are continuing in the military court.

More Schools Closed

TA1801142189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has closed all schools in Ramallah, Al-Birah, Janin, and Qalqilyah for 3 days. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that nationalist elements in the territories called for a 3-day school strike in these locations because of causes unrelated to the educational system, such as the demolition of houses and the wounding of youths. The Civil Administration has also shut down three schools in Al-Duhayshah, Dura, and Husan.

The Civil Administration's education officer explained that the educational system was shut down to prevent violent confrontations between the students and the IDF. [passage omitted]

New IDF Liaison Officer to Foreign Forces Named

TA1701100489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 89 p 12

[Report by the defense affairs correspondent]

[Text] Aluf-Mishne [Colonel] Hayim Yifrah has been named to succeed Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Yequti'el Mor as head of the IDF's liaison unit to foreign forces.

Jerusalem Notes 'Arafat's Relatives in Key Posts

JN1801094589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 15 Jan 89

[From the feature: "Brevity is the Soul of Wit" by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's brother Jamal 'Arafat is the PLO's representative in the YAR. It is known that the PLO's fund base is in the YAR and that its funds are deposited in YAR banks. What draws attention is that Yasir 'Arafat appoints his relatives to key positions in the PLO—positions from which they can influence and control financial resources.

'Arafat's Threats to 'Moderates' Examined

JN1801101289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 15 Jan 89

[From the feature: "Brevity is the Soul of Wit" by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] Stifling moderate voices has been a negative phenomenon prevailing in the Palestinian arena for half a century or more. Everyone who voices a moderate stand or adopts a rational course is threatened with killing or killed. This is what is happening these days, too.

Following calls by some personalities in the territories for halting incidents for a year to pave the way for a solution, 'Arafat threatened that anyone voicing such stands would be killed by his people's bullets. This threat has its own indications and reflections.

First, the leaders in the territories, and not those who are very remote from the arena, constitute the true barometer of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the [Gaza] Strip. The local leaders live here and experience, hour by hour, the people's issues, crises, and suffering.

However, the threatening leaders, who live far from here in Tunisia and the YAR, and who tour the European capitals, do not have the feelings harbored by the Palestinians here. It is enough when we hear what Palestinian writer Dawud Kuttab recently said to the effect that the inhabitants of the territories pay a dear price in money and life and that it is time to search for peaceful solutions.

Second, threatening Palestinian personalities in the territories is decisive proof of the ambitions of those leveling threats to monopolize the leadership for themselves. They do not want any rivals.

Third, 'Arafat's threats give legitimacy to the more extremist elements in the Palestinian arena, to their threats and to assassination.

Today if 'Arafat and his companions threaten moderates in the territories, tomorrow 'Arafat and his companions will be threatened by the extremist elements in the Palestinian arena if they attempt to show any moderation. In light of this, 'Arafat's threats are a double-edged weapon.

'Arafat Meeting With British Minister Lauded

TA1701183389 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 89 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "An Extremely Positive British Stance"]

[Text] The results of the first round of the official dialogue between the PLO and Britain, which ended yesterday in Tunis, between the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, and British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, as well as the statements by the British minister following this meeting, represent an extremely positive British stance.

British diplomacy lacked such a stance for a long time in its dealings with the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly in relation to the form and content of the international peace conference.

The British minister added a new dimension to the international position by affirming that 1989 will be a decisive year and a one-time opportunity for making peace in the region through the formula of the international conference. This conference must be held under UN auspices and with the participation of the Security Council's five permanent member states, the PLO, Israel, and the Arab confrontation states.

The British minister, who lauded the new Palestinian tendency aimed at ending the conflict and making peace in the region, did not hesitate to direct sharp criticism at Israel's leaders when he pointed out that the world, which is in a state of revival and change, will not wait for the Israelis if they continue to persist in their traditional positions that reject peace.

There is no doubt that should the British position, as expressed by Minister Waldegrave, which totally conforms with the Palestinian perception of the international conference formula and which calls for the implementation of UN resolutions, continue in the same manner, it will be qualified to play an important and large role in pushing all the parties to the table of a plenary international conference in order to lay the foundations of a just and durable peace in the region.

While we welcome the British minister's statements, and perceive in them a great and important positive development in Britain's stance regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, we hope that Britain will translate this stance in order to pave the way for drawing up an active European position that will contribute to inducing Israel to alter its policies, desist from its intransigence, and respond to the Palestinian peace appeal.

This is especially so since the British minister pointed out clearly that Britain maintains a special relationship with the United States, Europe, and the parties to the conflict in the region.

U.S. Senator Specter Meets With King Husayn

JN1501171489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court today U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and his accompanying delegation. They are currently visiting Jordan. The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Sees Prime Minister

JN1601131689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office this morning U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and his delegation. They discussed regional developments and the Middle East. The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Paris Paper Interviews Al-Qasim on Weapons, Peace

PM1301105489 Paris LE FIGARO in French 11 Jan 89 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Marwan Qasim by Claude Lorieux in Paris—date not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] The controversy on whether or not chemical and nuclear disarmament should be linked has dominated the conference [Paris conference on chemical weapons]. Jordan has a long border with Israel, and the Arabs accuse the latter of having nuclear weapons. How do you view the problem of this "link"?

[Qasim] We do not have any intention of manufacturing chemical weapons nor do we have the ability to produce nuclear weapons. But our country is situated at the heart of an area in which those weapons exist. That is why we are tackling this problem from the angle of "defusing" the hotbeds of tension which exist in our part of the world.

To promote the disarmament process, we must therefore tackle the problems which are creating a feeling of insecurity: the Israeli-Arab problem, taking account of Israel's nuclear capability, and the Iran-Iraq problem, in view of the fact that both states have a chemical capability. The conference must therefore help to bring about a comprehensive settlement in the two conflicts.... If I feel safe, I feel no need to equip myself with a weapon system like the ones being discussed here....

Useless Buffer Zones

[Lorieux] Syria and Egypt have long-range missiles. Iraq has developed one over the past few years to use against Iran. Saudi Arabia has just bought such missiles from China. Surely the appearance of these missiles will completely change the strategic situation between Israel and its Arab neighbors?

[Qasim] Israel's airports are 3 minutes' flying time from Jordan. It takes 3 minutes to fly from Tel Aviv to Amman. With the guided missiles [armes correctionnelles] which we already have and which the Israelis have, each of us can hit cities in the other country without much difficulty.

We therefore think that Israel's claim to increase its security by occupying foreign territory to create "buffer zones" is unfounded. This is particularly true with the new missiles which have appeared in the region and with which Israel can be threatened from positions situated thousands of kilometers from its territory.

But do not forget that a country only starts acquiring new weapons if it feels threatened. It was because Iran threatened Iraqi cities at the beginning of the war that the Iraqis developed missiles capable of hitting Iranian cities. Security is a state of mind much more than the result of threats or military pressure.

Doomed to Optimism

[Lorieux] Let us imagine that war breaks out between Israel and the Arabs and that an Arab country bombs the Jewish state with chemical weapons. Those weapons are not always accurate or reliable. It would just take a wind to blow the deadly gas into Jordan....

[Qasim] Of course. Moreover, I have already told you that Jordan is not a nuclear power or a chemical power, but is situated in the middle of such powers. That is why we are fighting for a political settlement to the Israeli-Arab and Iranian-Iraqi problems.

[Lorieux] Regarding the peace process, does the composition of the new Israeli Government make you optimistic?

[Qasim] We Jordanians are doomed to optimism. We will therefore continue to hope that the international community will pressure all the parties concerned to agree to participate in an international Near East peace conference.

[Lorieux] The Israelis reject the idea of an international conference. The Arabs reject Camp David-style bilateral negotiations. Why can you not find some solution halfway between the two?

[Qasim] Peace is not the result of pressures exerted by one camp on another. It stems from a feeling of right and justice. What are the minimum conditions for building peace? They are what the international community, through the United Nations, has accepted as the conditions for peace: Two states must coexist on Palestinian territory from the Jordan to the Mediterranean. The West Bank and the Gaza strip are already coexisting with the Israeli state, even if it is in a violent way. We want to turn violence into peace between these two occupied territories and the Israeli state.

'Arafat i
Israelis v holding out his hand to the Israelis. But the
presence ould like to cut off his hand to maintain their
not want in the territories. You see that the Israelis do
the mechanism which would lead to peace.

[Lorieux]
a few day A Palestinian embassy was opened in Amman
and Jord s ago. With regard to relations between the PLO
n, which are often stormy, is this not an event?

[Qasim]
year, Jor No, it is the logical result of recent events. Last
with the an severed its political and administrative links
people's ccupied West Bank. The PLO is the Palestinian
Palestini ole legitimate representative. In Algiers, the
fore impe ns proclaimed an independent state. It was there-
rative for us to recognize that state.

[Lorieux]
officials? Are you still paying the salaries of West Bank

[Qasim]
occupied No. We are merely helping the population in the
births, m territories with their daily needs: registration of
so forth. rriages, and deaths, inheritance questions, and
just trave We are also giving them passports, but they are
aim is lir l documents, not nationality documents. Our
state give ited: It is to help people until the Palestinian
s them their own documents.

[Lorieux]
Are you making savings?

[Qasim]
Jordan h hat is not the problem. Over the past 20 years,
salaries, p s spent 2 billion dollars in the West Bank on
duty. ublic services, and development. That was our

[Lorieux]
land remi The sabotage of the Pan Am plane over Scot-
been tal nded us of the existence of terrorism. There has
'Arafat. V of minor Palestinian groups opposed to
terrorism Would the creation of a Palestinian state end
?

[Qasim]
frustratio Peace in the region would remove numerous
ism woul s. There is therefore reason to think that terror-
is even s be reduced. But terrorism knows no borders. It
Kennedy en in France. Remember the assassination of
terrorism and the attack on Reagan. I am afraid that
particular will be with us for a long time. I regret this in
many hija because Jordan, which has been the victim of so
more fron ckings and murders of diplomats, has suffered
n terrorism than most countries.

'At Leas ' 30,000 Foreigners Renew Work Permits

JN12010 12-13 Jan 2389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 89 p 3

[Text] An
danians mman (PETRA, J.T.)—At least 30,000 non-Jor-
permits o working in the Kingdom renewed their work
ver the past three weeks as a result of a consistent campaign by the Ministry of Labour and its various offices in the Kingdom to ensure that foreign workers were abiding by the ministry regulations, Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin aanounced here Wednesday.

The minister said in a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA that the campaign will be of a continuous nature, and that on Saturday teams from the Labour Ministry, who had earlier visited firms and companies to ensure the application of the law, will be calling again at the same businesses for the same purpose.

These measures, the minister noted, are being taken to organise the local labour market and to ensure that Jordanians have priority in employment, and that non-Jordanians brought into the country were being employed in jobs for which they had been issued work permits.

Dudin added that the ministry would not hesitate to order non-Jordanians to leave the country if they are found to be violating the law, and that their employers would be held responsible for their actions and will shoulder the cost of their workers' travel back home.

Last week, the director of the Alien and Border Posts Division at the Public Security Department (PSD) said that by Dec. 31,1988, there were a total of 226,754 non-Jordanians living in the Kingdom. He said these include Arab and non-Arab nationals.

Director Muhammad al-Tarazi said that at present the government is charging JD [Jordanian Dinar] 100 for work permits issued to Arab workers employed in the Kingdom.

AL-ANBA': AL-QUDS Paper Confiscated

JN1101154089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Jan 89 p 30

[Text] Amman (AL-ANBA')—It has been learned from reliable sources that the Amman-based AL-QUDS newspaper, the organ of PLO dissident Abu al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], was confiscated yesterday on the order of the Jordanian authorities for publishing news against Yasir 'Arafat, accusing him of having old and new relations with the United States within the course of the continuous media campaign against 'Arafat and the legitimate Palestinian leadership since Abu al-Za'im split [from the PLO] 3 years ago.

The sources added that the Abu al-Za'im movement is now passing through its final stages in the wake of the improvement in relations between Jordan and the PLO.

Army Chief on Reorganization, Syria Role
PM1101112589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 89 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Acting Lebanese Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What stage have you reached in your reorganization of the Lebanese Army, and is it true that you are facing difficulties with the Army units in the north, Al-Biqa', and Sidon?

[Al-Khatib] On 1 January 1989 we completed our 7th week in the Lebanese Army's new command. This, without doubt, is too short a period to reorganize an army, but, in all modesty, we say that what we have achieved in this important period in our Army's life and that of our wounded homeland is something of which we can all be proud. Although we do not have a headquarters with all its equipment and administrative and command apparatus, we have managed to build a temporary headquarters and equipped it with everything that is needed for effective direct command. We have formed a general staff and assigned tasks and responsibilities. The officials have begun their work and the first result is the fact that we have linked all the brigades to Army Headquarters through radio and telephone networks. Promotions of officers, which had been suspended for 3 years, have also been implemented. [passage omitted]

As regards the problems I have faced and am still facing, they are mainly administrative, not political problems. The Lebanese Army is by structure, origin, and nature a disciplined army which finds solace in legitimacy and despises anyone who undermines that legitimacy. It wants a leadership that would restore its role and its position and give it a clear national incentive. [passage omitted]

[Question] Is it true that you have begun enlisting volunteers who were members of the militias in areas other than those under the Al-Yarzah command [orginal Army Headquarters in the eastern sector]? At any rate, how many brigades will the Army have under your reorganization plan?

[Al-Khatib] First of all, we have not started volunteer enlistment. Also, the phrase "the areas other than those under the Al-Yarzah command" is highly exaggerated. Everyone knows the size of the areas under the Al-Yarzah command, so one should not give them more attention than they deserve. It only means that we have announced we are beginning to accept applications for enrollment in the military academy to ensure a continued supply of young officers to the Army to fulfill its requirements and ensure its continuity.

As regards volunteer recruitment, it has not started yet. What will happen is that Lebanese people who meet certain requirements and pass medical and qualification tests will be allowed to volunteer. As regards members of the militias, there will be special organizations that can benefit from their presence in other defensive fields of confrontation with the Israeli enemy.

[Question] Are you contemplating replacing the Syrian Army in administrative positions in Beirut under a general security plan and agreement, or will you just go ahead and do that unilaterally regardless of the attitude of the Al-Yarzah command. When, approximately, is that likely to happen?

[Al-Khatib] The main purpose of reorganizing the Lebanese Army is to enable it to play its natural role in Beirut and other areas in protecting the people and their property internally and to defend the homeland against the Israeli enemy on the borders. As the Syrian Army is at present discharging this duty on behalf of the Lebanese Army and at the request of the legal and constitutional Lebanese authorities and in response to the appeals of influential Lebanese political circles and popular leaderships, coordination between the two armies is a duty and a necessity. Until the Lebanese Army is ready to shoulder that responsibility so the duties can be transferred with the required precision and effectiveness, the Syrian units will remain in positions nearby to provide support for the Lebanese Army as necessary. Coordination between the two armies will then move to more advanced stages outside Beirut and on the borders. This coordination will naturally be in accordance with political decisions which we carry out and help in making in our capacity as military advisers to the government. Al-Yarzah has nothing to do with the matter. Actually, today we are Al-Yarzah, although we are not physically there now.

Regarding the likely date for such a move, well, I cannot give a date now because that will depend on procedural matters related to the volunteering and armament processes that we are now trying to expedite.

[Question] Clashes are continuing between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the southern suburb. Do you think you can replace the Syrian Army units in that area one day if the Syrian forces do not disarm everyone, stop armed incidents, and take the heavy and light weapons away from the fighters and the people?

[Al-Khatib] There can be no doubt that these clashes are a major tragedy for the southern suburb and their fire is reaching West Beirut. As a military official I wish these clashes would end with a political solution that would place the parties concerned back in the same trench to fight the enemy of Lebanon and its agents: the Israeli enemy which occupies the south and is an affront to its dignity.

Of course, everyone knows just as I do that the southern suburb has been the scene of many conflicts and dialogues which have transcended the borders of Lebanon. It would be unfair to give responsibility for the suburb's security in its present condition solely to the young Lebanese Army. It would be better for all if the Lebanese Army assumes responsibility after a comprehensive political solution and complete disarmament are achieved. [passage omitted]

UN's Goulding Criticizes 'Israeli Practices'

NC1301073089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding has dismissed the possibility that there will be any difficulty in securing the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate for another 6 months. He pointed out that he will submit a report to the UN secretary general on the outcome of his talks with the Lebanese officials on the renewal issue.

Goulding held a quick round of talks with Lebanese officials upon his arrival in Beirut from Cairo yesterday morning. He held talks with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri. He also met with a delegation representing the Lebanese deportees. Goulding met with General 'Awn in the afternoon, and is scheduled to meet with Faruq Abu al-Lama', Foreign Ministry secretary general. Goulding is also scheduled to leave for the South later today.

In the wake of his talks, Goulding pointed out that he has sensed consensus among the Lebanese leaders on the importance of renewing the UN forces' mandate. He added: Every Lebanese leader had expressed the desire that the UN forces should assume their position in the South and implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. Goulding denied that his talks have touched on the presidential elections, stressing that the United Nations is against the Israeli practices in the South, particularly the deportation of Lebanese people from their villages and houses on the border strip. He noted that such practices run counter to the fourth Geneva convention.

Departs for Israel 14 Jan

NC1401184789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding left Lebanon at 1700 today aboard a military helicopter for the occupied Arab territory following a 3-day visit. While in Lebanon, he spent two days in the South and met with Speaker al-Husayni, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Minister Nabih Birri, General Michel 'Awn, and Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lama'.

Goulding today inspected the UN Forces units, visited the eastern sector, and met with the Norwegian contingent command at its headquarters in Ibil al-Saqi.

[In its report on General Goulding's departure, (clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1730 GMT 14 January adds that "after Lebanon, Goulding will visit Syria, Jordan, and Israel."]

Syrian Intelligence Arrests Hizballah Network

NC1301124489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian intelligence service arrested a Hizballah network operating inside Syria within the past few days. The network had been cooperating with the Muslim Brotherhood in order to carry out acts against the country's security.

According to this radio's information, the Syrian security forces carried out extensive raids after they uncovered arms caches belonging to Hizballah. The Syrian authorities discovered that these weapons include explosives and shells which had been smuggled into Syria over the Lebanese border.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Continue; Syrian Killed

NC1701175889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Amal-Hizballah fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah has, relatively speaking, abated. Fierce clashes, in which machineguns, rockets, and artillery were used, erupted this afternoon. The clashes took place along the 'Ayn Qana, Jba', and Al-Luwayzah combat lines, where massive troops concentrations were sighted. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, extreme tension reigns in the Bi'r Hasan area of West Beirut in the wake of a security problem today between Hizballah and the Amal movement in which the Syrian occupation troops directly intervened. One Syrian was killed as a result, according to a Hizballah statement. The statement says that some Amal members ambushed three Hizballah members and opened fire at them, wounding one of them. The statement added that the Syrians immediately intervened, opening fire at the Amal members. As a result, an Amal member called Abu Mahir was killed. The Amal members returned the Syrian soldiers' fire, killing one of them on the spot.

For its part, an Amal Movement source said the problem arose when an Amal member was stopped and disarmed at a roadblock manned by Syrian troops. A Hizballah official happened to be in the area at the time. A verbal exchange soon developed into an exchange of fire, in which an Amal member named Fayiz Muhiy al-Din, a Syrian national who is also known as Abu Mahir, was killed. He was in charge of the movement's office in Bi'r Hasan.

AFP has reported that following the murder of the Syrian soldier in Bi'r Hasa, the Syrian occupation troops deployed in the neighborhood and questioned a number of persons. [passage omitted]

Syria To Supply Al-Khatib With Tank Battalion

NC1401150589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The Bayrut News Agency has reported that the Syrian authorities have informed Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib that they will supply him with a T-54 tank battalion in February. The agency pointed out that the Central Bank will foot the bill, which amounts to U.S.$25 million.

Syrians Arrest Pro-Iraqi Ba'th Party Members

NC1601153889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from West Beirut, Syrian intelligence men today launched a widescale campaign of arrests of members of the pro-Iraqi Ba'th Party in the area.

Reportage on Attacks Against Syrian Occupation

10 Jan Attack Noted

NC1001194189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Regarding military operations against the Syrian occupation forces, the 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli contacted Radio Free Lebanon this evening to claim responsibility for firing on a Syrian occupation forces' checkpoint at the Al-Amerkan School area in Al-Zahiriyah at 1700 today. According to the organization, the target received a direct hit, inflicting a number of casualties on the Syrians. The organization pledged to continue its military operations against the Syrians until Tripoli has been liberated from them.

Meanwhile, in West Beirut the Muhammad Hassun group of the Shaykh Subhi al-Salih Forces has announced that it shelled a Syrian occupation post in the Bayrut Hospital area near the new Al-Rawshah market with 60-mm mortars, scoring direct hits, and that a shell hit one of the post's barricades.

Grenade Attack in Tripoli

NC1401072089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The Shaykh Subhi al-Salih Forces group has declared that it carried out a hand grenade attack on a Syrian occupation forces' position in a building under construction in the Al-Mulla area of Tripoli at 2030 yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Bayrut Martyrs Battalion has declared that it carried out two operations against the Syrian occupation forces in West Beirut at dawn today. In the first operation an RPG was fired at a Syrian patrol in the Al-Bastah-Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq area at 0430 today. In the second operation an RPG was fired at a house used by Syrian intelligence officers in Al-Rawshah area.

The battalion said that the Syrian occupation forces suffered a number of casualties.

Al-'Abbas 'Headquarters' Hit

NC1401191789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has claimed responsibility for opening fire this evening on a position of the Syrian occupation army in the Al-Ma'rid area in Tripoli. The position is the headquarters of Colonel Muhammad 'Abbas of the Syrian special units; he is also known as Abu al-'Abbas. The organization said that several Syrian soldiers were injured in the attack, and Abu al-'Abbas' car was damaged.

W. Beirut Checkpoint Attacked

NC1501171789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Jan 89

Text] The Shaykh Subhi al-Salih forces have declared that one of their groups threw an explosive device at a Syrian occupation forces' checkpoint in Tallat al-Khayyat in West Beirut at 1830 today. Two Syrian soldiers were wounded in the blast.

Subhi al-Salih Group Attack

NC1601070789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Unit 705 of the Subhi al-Salih forces has announced that it carried out a hand grenade attack on a blue Fiat 2000 belonging to Syrian intelligence near the Al-Mashriq Hotel in Al-Hamra' in West Beirut shortly before 2000 yesterday, killing its driver. Meanwhile, the Muhammad Hassun forces announced that they carried out a similar attack on a Syrian occupation forces' checkpoint in Tallat al-Khayyat in West Beirut, wounding two Syrian soldiers.

'16 January Organization' Attack

NC1601160089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has claimed responsibility for attacking a Syrian occupation forces post near Ibn Sina' school in Al-Qubbah at 0420 today. The post received direct hits, causing confusion among its members, who were put on alert.

'9 February Organization' Attacks

NC1701064589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The 9 February Organization has announced that it attacked a Syrian occupation post in the Al-Nuwayrah area in West Beirut at 0100 last night. Rockets and machineguns were used in the attack which left three Syrian soldiers killed and a number of others wounded.

The organization adds that, following the attack, the Syrian occupation troops fired sporadically and cordoned off the area.

Tripoli Martyrs' Attack

NC1701220789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The Tripoli Martyrs Battalion has announced that it attacked two Syrian occupation forces checkpoints at the northern approach to Tripoli and the 'Adwi area junction in Sir al-Dinniyah this evening. Speaking to Radio Free Lebanon, a spokesman for the battalion said that the attacks left about four Syrian soldiers dead or wounded and a Syrian military truck ablaze.

Intelligence Sergeant Reported Killed

NC1801072489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The Bayrut Martyrs Battalion has announced that it executed Radwan Muhsin, a Syrian intelligence service sergeant, at dawn today. The group said that it had disarmed and kidnapped him in Al-Watwat Street near Al-Sana'i' Park in West Beirut at 2130 last night. A spokesman for the battalion said that the Syrian sergeant's body was thrown near the St George Hotel and explained that the operation was carried out because he had refused to release Bayrut Battalion detainees who were held in the Beau Rivage Hotel.

The Muhammad Hassan group of the Shaykh Subhi al-Salih Forces announced that it shelled a Syrian occupation army position in the Shatila Circle area near the Al-Shahrur Restaurant last night. The group said that it used 60-mm mortars in this attack.

12 PSP Members Arrested by Israelis in South

NC1201153489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports received from the south, the Amal Movement is preventing leftists from carrying out operations against the Israeli forces in the border strip. It arrested a group from the Ba'th Party that was planning an operation inside the border strip.

PSP security sources have reported that Israeli forces have arrested 12 PSP members from the villages of 'Ayn Qinya and Shawayya, including the party official in Hasbayya.

Israel Reportedly Gives Arms to Amal in South

NC1601160489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Sources close to Hizballah in the South today disclosed that Israel has recently handed over a quantity of arms and ammunition to Abu Hasan Ghaddar, one of the Amal Movement's officials in the area.

Reportage on Israeli Aircraft Movements, Attacks

Planes Reconnoiter Sidon, Camps

NC1701082389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes reconnoitered southern Lebanese airspace while flying at low altitude over Sidon and the Palestinian camps at approximately 0900 today.

Conduct 'Mock Raids' Over Sidon

NC1701122189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out three mock raids over Sidon and the Palestinian camps this morning. The planes attracted anti-aircraft fire, and a state of maximum alert has been declared by the Palestinians and the Nasirite Popular Organization.

Fire Flares Over Southern Areas

NC1701201189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Since precisely 2100 today, Israeli warplanes have been flying over the southern areas, firing flares. Latest reports say the enemy aircraft are still continuing their flights and are being met with antiaircraft fire.

Conduct 'Mock Raids' in South

NC1801083989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabicto Lebanon 0830 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Zionist warplanes are currently conducting mock raids at medium altitude over western Al-Biqa', Sidon, and the Palestinian camps. The Zionist jets are drawing anti-aircraft fire.

Fly Over Al-Nabatiyah

NC1801170689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] According to security reports from the South, Israeli helicopters overflew the town of Al-Nabatiyah at low altitude during reconnaissance flights this afternoon.

Israeli Tanks Bombard Hizballah in South

NC1701125089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] A responsible military official in the Amal Movement in the south has stated that the movement's positions in Jarju' came under violent and concentrated artillery bombardment from Israeli tanks on the Sujud hills at 1330 today. The bombardment continued for 15 minutes.

In the meantime, Hizballah fighters launched an attack on the movement's positions in the area. Clashes involving the use of various weapons ensued between the two sides. However, the movement managed to check the attack, added the source.

Tankfire Kills Amal Official

NC1701204089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The Amal group of martyrs Khidr Jadid and Husayn Haffad planted an explosive device on the 'Alman-Dayr Siryan road and detonated the device when a Zionist enemy military patrol was passing on the road today. An enemy vehicle was destroyed and its occupants wounded. Vehicles and ambulances arrived at the scene of the operation and took the wounded away. The Zionist enemy shelled the neighboring area with 82-mm mortar shells. The fighters returned safely to their bases.

Amal Movement leaders in the South today announced the martyrdom of Nabil Hijazi, alias Nidal al-'Amili, the official in charge of the Amal Operations Room. He was martyred when, together with an Amal group, he was reconnoitering positions of the Zionist enemy and its agents in Tallat Sujud. He was hit by several shells fired from a Merkava tank. He died instantly.

Resistance Attacks Israeli, SLA Position in South

NC1301132389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] The resistance fighters today attacked a position jointly manned by the occupation troops and agents on the eastern part of 'Ali al-Tahir Mountain in the South. An armored personnel carrier was destroyed in the attack, and those riding in it were either killed or wounded.

Reportage on Visit of Soviet Peace Delegation

Meets With Peace Council

JN1101080589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus—A session of talks was held between the Syrian Peace Council delegation led by Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, member of the [Arab Socialist Ba'th] Party National Command and chairman of the Council, and the Soviet peace committee delegation led by Comrade Izzat Klychev, member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Peace in the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan, at the Ba'th Party National Command building yesterday in the presence of the Soviet charge d'affaires in Damascus.

The two sides exchanged views on the most important international issues, particularly the steps made on the road to nuclear disarmament and the changes that they have introduced in the international atmosphere. They also discussed efforts to settle regional conflicts.

They discussed the situation in the Middle East and U.S.-Israeli attempts to hamper efforts being made with regard to the peace issue in the region. The two sides stressed the importance of holding an effective and fullly empowered international conference to achieve a firm, just peace in a manner that will guarantee Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and achieve the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to repatriation and self-determination.

The talks also dealt with bilateral relations, the World Peace Council's work, and the importance of reinforcing the role of mass organizations and the world's public circles in the struggle for peace.

Received by Assembly Speaker

JN1401150089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah today received the Soviet peace committee delegation led by Izzat Klychev, member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Peace. The Soviet charge d'affaires attended the meeting.

Izzat Klychev explained the democratic process and reconstruction in the Soviet Union, especially on the democratic level, as well as the Supreme Soviet's nomination and election process, which will begin soon. He spoke of the Soviet delegation's visit to Syria and the great progress and development Syria has seen on all levels.

He also spoke about his deep impressions during his visit to the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah and the savage destruction wrought by the unjust Zionist forces before they withdrew from the city. He emphasized that through their persevering struggle, brave determination, and wise leadership, the Syrian people will realize victory and regain their territory and usurped rights.

The People's Assembly speaker stressed the deep and historical bilateral relations in all fields between the two friendly countries and peoples—relations crowned by the treaty of friendship and cooperation. He noted the unswerving joint militant stand in confronting imperialism and Zionism and their challenges and aggressive plots.

Signs Joint Statement

JN1501154089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Comrade Izzat Klychev, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Turkmen SSR Committee for the Defense of Peace, and the accompanying delegation. The USSR charge d'affaires in Damascus attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the Syrian-USSR relations of friendship in general and with developments in the region, the work for achieving peace and security both in the region and the world, and the realization of people's aspirations for their political and economic freedoms and independent development.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the strong relations of friendship between both parties, countries, and friendly peoples. He pointed out that Syria's role in achieving a just peace in the region aims to end Zionist occupation of Arab territories and regain the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Al-Ahmar also affirmed Syria's appreciation for the Soviet initiatives that seek to enhance world peace, end hotbeds of tension, and resolve existing international problems.

Comrade Klychev affirmed his country's stand in support of the Arab cause. He lauded the nationalist Syrian course led by Comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the Republic, and the strong and developed relations of friendship between the USSR and Syria.

A joint statement was issued today on the talks held between the Syrian Peace Council delegation led by Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command and the Council's chairman, and the delegation of the Turkmen SSR Committee for the Defense of Peace led by Comrade Izzat Klychev, at the end of the delegation's visit to the country.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with Syrian-USSR relations based on the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in 1980 as well as with their joint stands on the causes of world justice and peace. They also emphasized that the continuation of the tense situation in the Middle East is due to the Zionist entity's aggressive, expansionist course, supported by the United States, which seeks to impose capitulationist settlements on Arabs.

In their
intensiv ir final statement, the two sides condemned the
nean an ve U.S. military concentrations in the Mediterra-
riyah. nd the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahi-

The fin
was he nal session of talks between the two delegations
Comm eld at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National
reviewe and Headquarters today. The delegations
friendly ed the work of the peace councils in the two
current ly countries and exchanged views on a number of
t issues.

JN1501 **Klychev Holds News Conference**
15 Jan)1104689 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT
n 89

[Text] I
ber of t Damascus, 15 Jan (SANA)—Izzat Klychev, mem-
man of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chair-
Peace, f the Turkmen SSR Committee for the Defense of
tion be has lauded relations of friendship and coopera-
continu etween Syria and the USSR. These relations are
both fr uously enhanced in the welfare and interest of
riendly countries, he said.

At a ne ews conference held here today, Klychev asserted
that his is visit to Syria was successful and fruitful and that
views w were identical on the issues discussed. He hailed
Syria's s positive, consistent stands on peace in the Middle
East, c commending the USSR support for holding an
effectiv ve international conference with full powers under
UN aus uspices to resolve the Middle East problem.

Klyche ev also condemned the aggressive actions that
Israel c carries out against Arab peoples. He held Israel
respons nsible for aggravating the situation in the Middle
East an nd threatening peace in this important region of
the wo orld.

Comm mentary on Shamir's 'Alleged Peace Initiative'
JN110 01151289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 C GMT 11 Jan 89

[Statio ion commentary]

[Text] t] Dear listeners: Yitzhaq Shamir has produced a
mouse se from a mountain, as the European proverb goes.
He pr presented to the European Parliament the basic
outlin nes of his alleged peace initiative in the Middle East.
What t are the basic outlines of this initiative, with which
the Zi Zionist and imperialist media have for weeks been
trying g to preoccupy world public opinion?

Shami nir says he accepts negotiations under the supervi-
sion o of the superpowers or the United Nations. Zionist
and i imperialist media welcomed this and carried to
world d public opinion the glad tidings that Shamir agreed,
for th the first time, on talks under the umbrella of the
Unite ted Nations or the superpowers as if this agreement
means ns peace or opens the door for peace.

In his speech—distributed to journalists after its delivery in the absence of media men—Shamir was not satisfied with announcing the agreement on negotiations within a UN framework and under UN supervision. Shamir linked this agreement with a simple condition—that is, the United Nations or the superpowers should refrain from interfering in the essence of the talks. Apart from the fabricated Zionist and imperialist media clamor, what does Shamir's stand mean?

Is it really a deviation on the part of the Israeli prime minister toward accepting the international conference and respecting world public opinion's call for an end to the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territory and for respecting the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people—a necessary condition for any peace in the region?

What Shamir said is outrightly not new. What he said falls within the previous framework of the Israeli policy rejecting the UN resolutions and the principles of the UN Charter as well as the Israeli call for holding direct and separate negotiations between the aggressor and the aggrieved party without abiding by the UN resolutions, international law, and the principles of the UN Charter with the aim to legitimize the occupation, seize the rights, and announce the surrender of the victims of the occupation to the outlaw aggressor.

Shamir's playing with words and terms does not hide the essence of his stand. He rejects the international conference called for by the United Nations and which the international community believes to be the appropriate framework to establish a just peace in the Middle East.

Shamir rejects the international conference because he wants nobody to ask aggrieved Israel to respect UN resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and for giving the Palestinian Arab people their national rights.

This means that Shamir wants the United Nations or the superpowers to achieve for Israel what it could not achieve throughout 40 years and many aggressive wars—that is, to lead the Arabs to the direct, unilateral negotiating table with Israel to announce their surrender according to Israeli terms, their acceptance of the Israeli dictation, and their concession of their lands and national rights.

The international conference and the international supervision over peace talks in the Middle East are not an objective in themselves. The objective is to establish a just peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and resolutions. The difference between those who seek peace and those who want to impose capitulation on the Arabs and award the aggressor is that those who really seek peace want an international conference with powers and influence that is linked to UN resolutions on the Middle East and Palestine.

Those who do not want peace are the ones who want to evade the UN resolutions under a false pretext—the rejection of preconditions for talks and preventing the United Nations from dealing with the essence of the talks as if the essence of the talks that is related to the United Nations, the international community, the UN resolutions, and world and regional peace do not concern the United Nations and the international community but concern the Israeli rulers, who want to impose the fait accompli on the international community and regional situation.

Thus, what Shamir launched within the framework of propagating his alleged initiative for peace in the Middle East is no more than a repetition of known old stands and words that proved to be a failure, false, and contrary to peace interests in the region.

Radio Commentary on Arab Solidarity With Libya
JN1301143089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arab foreign ministers expressed in their meeting in Tunis yesterday their solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah toward the U.S. threats. They considered the U.S. Air Force's downing of two Libyan aircraft an attack against an Arab League member state and defiance of the security of the Arabs and the Mediterranean area.

This Arab solidarity with sisterly Libya is important because it came 1 day after the triple veto led by Washington at the Security Council against the condemnation resolution on the downing of the two Libyan aircraft. The Arab stand expressed by the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis is not only a rejection and a challenge in the face of U.S. belligerency, encroachment on Arab and Mediterranean security, and threatening Libya with aggression but also consitutes a practical response to the triple veto.

If Washington can—through the veto—annul the international will expressed by the draft resolution condemning the U.S. aggression against Libya, it certainly cannot at least cancel the Arab will to denounce, condemn, and confront its threats to a certain Arab state or to the whole Arab security.

Washington's abuse of its influence at the United Nations by using the veto to prevent the issuance of a UN resolution denouncing it did not prevent most of the world's countries from condemning the American attack on the Libyan aircraft, whether through the discussions held within the United Nations or in the separate statements of condemnation.

If the U.S. veto has torpedoed the UN condemnation resolution, it did not affect the unity of Arab decision issued in Tunis yesterday. The Arab decision not only condemned the aggression against the two Libyan aircraft but expressed a common Arab will to face any premeditated U.S. aggression.

The decision adopted by the Arab League Council reflects a common Arab will to confront U.S. belligerency and threats to overall Arab security launched in the form of direct threats to this or that country. The Arab decision reflects the policy of hegemony and domination which Washington is trying to impose on the Arab region. This Arab solidarity will certainly make Washington reconsider the premeditated aggressive schemes when it massed all its giant naval units in the Mediterranean recently.

This solidarity will also entrench Arabs' conviction of the viability and effectiveness of their solidarity to defend their causes and confront the common defiances facing them.

Palestine Broadcast on Mosad Role in Pan Am Crash
JN1401205689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Palestine Broadcast: From "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brother strugglers: It is not at all strange for the Jewish Defense League [JDL] to come out with a statement claiming responsibility for the crime of blowing up the U.S. civilian passenger aircraft over Scotland in which all the passengers on board were killed.

The Zionists had to deliver their message to the U.S. Administration as a threat accompanied with the crime—that they will not hesitate to commit similar crimes at any time.

The JDL statement is also a Zionist threat to Western European countries that the Zionists will not hesitate to confront the expected change in these countries' policies toward the Palestinian question with the same methods with which Britain was faced by the Zionists during its mandate in Palestine when it thought of responding to the Arab demand to stop Jewish immigration into Palestine.

The Stern, Begin, and Shamir gangs and other Zionist terrorists began to harrass British soldiers and stage a war of terror against Britain to force it to yield to the Zionists' plot to usurp Palestine and to continue to play its role in that plot without any retreat.

The United States and Western Europe are now facing Zionist extortion of the same kind, of which the crime of blowing up the Pan Am plane was the beginning. The threats to blow up a Swedish civilian airplane is a continuation of the same extortion.

The JDL did not play this criminal role on its own, but by directions from the Shamir government. It is even probable that its statement may be aimed at diverting attention away from the Mosad's role in committing the crime. However, is it not well known that the JDL is only a subordinate to the Mosad and is part of the ruling establishment of the Zionist entity.

Afghanistan

Soviet Troops Withdrawing Ahead of Deadline

BK1601004689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1931 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 15 (AFP)—Large columns of Soviet armoured cars and trucks are heading towards the Afghan-Soviet border a month before Moscow has pledged to pull all its troops out of Afghanistan, mujahidin sources said here Sunday [15 January].

Moscow promised, under the April 14 Geneva accords, to withdraw its total armed contingent—more than 100,000 troops according to Western experts—from Afghanistan by February 15.

Soviet troops have been pouring northwards from Kabul towards the frontier post of Termez along the strategic Salang highway, said the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY.

Armoured cars and trucks were seen passing through the Salang Tunnel about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of the Afghan capital, it said.

Soviet troops from the important Kailagai logistics base, midway point on the Salang highway between Kabul and the border, had been deployed to "maintain security" along the road, the news agency added. [passage omitted]

FRG To Close Embassy; Lack of Security Cited

LD1801081289 Hamburg DPA in German 0726 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, (DPA)—The FRG embassy in Afghanistan is to be closed in a few days. DPA has learned from reliable diplomatic sources that the German charge d'affaires and some colleagues who have remained in Kabul intend to leave the capital soon.

According to German diplomats, the reason for the closing down is the increasingly insecure situation in the Afghan capital. No details were mentioned.

It was not immediately known whether other EC countries also intend to prune their embassy staffs or close them down. A spokesman for the British Embassy in New Delhi said that he knew of no such plans. [passage omitted]

Ministers Approve Measures on Towns, Hoarding

LD1701175189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] At today's Council of Ministers' session chaired by Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq, items on the agenda were considered. In view of a proposal from the Ministry of Planning, it was decided that the USSR should hand over planned townships to the Afghan side under UN auspices.

One of the three documents approved in this respect at the Council of Ministers' session was that the ministry of the Armed Forces [as heard] was instructed to speed up the process of delivering the townships and installations, mentioned in the protocol, to the Ministry of Returnees Affairs.

The Council of Ministers also endorsed in principle the proposal by the Ministry of Justice on an ammendment to the law on the prevention of hoarding. A commission was set up to reconsider this law before sending it to the Presidency for approval.

Kabul Radio Reports on Shevardnadze Visit

LD1601231889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, held talks on 14 and 15 January with His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister of the Soviet Union who, headed a high-ranking delegation of that country, arrived in Kabul on a working visit. The meeting took place at Gol Khanah Palace.

During the meeting which was held in a friendly and warm atmosphere, both sides comprehensively assessed the present situation and the prospects facing the Afghan situation.

His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze pointed out that the Soviet Union decisively supports the important step taken by the Afghan Government regarding the announcement of a unilateral cease-fire commencing on 1 January.

In the course of the meeting, the great importance of the proposals put forward by M. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to the UN General Assembly, which were positively received by the people of the world, was emphasized.

Both sides expressed happiness at the realization of the coordinated and well planned Afghan-Soviet policy on ending the war and bloodshed and the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan. They approved the political and diplomatic efforts being made on an international level in order to achieve a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

They also affirmed the progress of the talks among the Afghans, including the diplomatic efforts by Y. Vorontsov, first deputy minister to the Soviet foreign minister and the Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, and similar efforts in the future.

The Soviet side reaffirmed its intention to continue its role as mediator in a general dialogue on Afghanistan, in the course of which the Afghans themselves would choose the methods of solving their disputes and taking an independent, neutral position and on the demilitarization of Afghanistan.

Both sides recalled the importance of the resolution of the 43d UN General Assembly session on Afghanistan and the role the secretary general should play on the basis of the resolution. They welcomed the UN's good offices concerning the political solution of the Afghan situation and the commencement of talks among the Afghans to form a broad-based government.

Both sides expressed hope that the Pakistani side, as a (?signatory), and the United States, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords, would honestly observe their pledges, following the example of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, stated that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan sincerely hopes that a peaceful way is found as soon as possible to end the long war. The president added that at the same time, we are prepared to give a shattering answer to force and to armed strikes in the event the situation deteriorates.

The Soviet side once again expressed its complete support for the policies of the Afghan leadership and stated that the Soviet Union will continue its all-round assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan within the framework of the treaties which have been signed between the two countries.

Both sides pointed out that the war-mongering policy of the extremist faction of the opposition, who have chosen war as a tool to achieve their selfish interests, is the major obstacle to achieving a (?peaceful) solution. [passage indistinct]

In the meantime, the effectiveness of contacts by the Afghan and Soviet side with representatives of various opposition groups inside and outside the country was pointed out. Moreover, it was stated that door remains open for contacts from the sides of the Republic of Afghanistan and from the Soviet Union for holding fruitful discussions with the organizations and opposition groups and personalities outside the country.

The Soviet side believes that the position of the alliance of seven concerning a peaceful solution of the questions related to Afghanistan cannot be called constructive. The opposition's statement concerning its decision to break off talks with the Soviet side was surprising.

The armed opposition in the alliance of seven has failed to answer positively to the unilateral cease-fire called by the forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet side. They only rely on the force of arms. The opposition has no other plan or policy except war and continued killing. However, we still hope that the voice of reason and wisdom will be heard and accepted.

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and unfounded claims by various leaders and commanders of the opposition, (?their stage-making reality will be revealed) and the present war will change to internecine clashes among the opposition groups.

The Soviet Union expressed full support for the efforts of the people of Afghanistan to attain national accord and affirmed its intention to continue aid to their friendly neighbor and would abandon them in their time of need.

Agreements were reached on the continuing discussion on issues related to Afghan-Soviet cooperation and also on prospects of cooperation in the coming months.

During the negotiations, the issue of transporting and supplying foodstuffs and other necessities was discussed. The parties agreed on the special and vital importance of supplying foods, fuel and petrol, and other humanitarian assistance from the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan. The Soviet Union reiterated its loyalty to all undertakings pledged to the Republic of Afghanistan in this respect.

It was noted that the Soviet Union's wide-ranging pledges in connection with aid to Afghanistan in socio-economic and other fields are considered as legal documents by the aforementioned country and therefore must be implemented specifically and without deviation. The pledges of help and cooperation by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan were outlined during Esteemed Najibollah and Mikhayil Gorbachev's meeting, taking into account the national reconciliation policy and the need to resolve the situation in Afghanistan.

During the Kabul talks, the USSR's readiness to continue all-round help to the people of Afghanistan in their efforts to restore peace in their country and healing war wounds was once again emphasized. It was noted that the Soviet Union's humanitarian assistance, both through bilateral arrangements and through the United Nations, will continue.

The Soviet Union's bilateral assistance amounts to 500 million rubles and the Soviet Union's pledges of help to Afghanistan through the United Nations is also known. Aid in the training of qualified personnel for Afghanistan and through direct links between Soviet republics, oblasts, and towns with Afghan towns and provinces will continue as before.

At the moment, a number of extremist groups leaders are talking about an economic blockade of Afghan towns and industrial centers. It seems they are not content with the constant shelling and killing of the civilian population and engaging in overt terrorism. Now they want people starve to death, die from epidemics, and suffer from the shortages of fuel and electricity. In other words, they want to condemn their own people to death.

In any case, a number of extremists speak of a kind of reward. What does all this mean? One should look ahead and think about the future of one's country, the peaceful prospects that have opened up—now that the Geneva agreements have been signed. Now every reasonable person figure out who is who.

It must be noted that we cannot allow groups, whatever interests and arrogance they represent, to hamper the transport of our assistance to alleviate the needs of the Afghan people. The Afghan people should know that we will enforce all our undertakings under the Geneva agreement and other existing agreements and treaties, regardless of obstacles.

The restoration of peace in Afghanistan will open up opportunities for further Soviet assistance in the construction of dozens of national projects in the country and for implementing,the long-term program of Afghan-Soviet economic, technical, and trade cooperation, signed in Moscow, for the period up to the year 2000.

I would like to mention that not only will our cooperation with nonaligned and neutral Afghanistan continue in the future, but it will also expand. His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze asserted that the Soviet Union will always be on the side of the Afghan people in difficult times in the future.

The meetings and negotiations between the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan with the Soviet foreign minister were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere and in complete accord.

Protest Notices Submitted to UN Mission

Note No 183

LD1601073289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 15, BAKHTAR—The one hundred eighty third notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva Accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] here today.

In the notice strict information on 39 instances of Pakistani violations of the Geneva agreements are given.

It asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of paragraph seven, document number four of the said accords investigate the mentioned violations.

Note No 184

LD1701072789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 16, BAKHTAR—The 184th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations of the provisions of Geneva agreements by Pakistan was submitted today to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

Precise information on 26 cases of violations by Pakistan was given in the notice; information is given in the notice about the attacks by the extremist groups over residential areas in the capital and provinces of the country which have incurred huge human and financial losses. The UNGOMAP has been asked to investigate the violations as per the Paragraph 7, Document No. 4 of Geneva agreements.

Notes Nos 185, 186

LD1801101789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan 17, BAKHTAR—The one hundred eighty fifth and one hundred eighty sixth notices of the Republic of Afghanistan on 18 flagrant instances of violations by Pakistan from article second, document number one of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

The notices say that contrary to the provisions of the Geneva accords the Pakistani side arms the extremists with modern armaments and sends them into Afghanistan to commit murder, arson and plunder here.

The notices ask UNGOMAP that on the basis of paragraph seven, document number four of the Geneva accords investigate the violations mentioned.

'Extremists' Launch Missiles at Capital

LD1601150889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The criminal extremists supported by the United States and Pakistan launched four surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of Kabul city this afternoon, committing another unforgivable crime against our peaceloving people.

The BIA military section reports that these missiles hit Qala-e Zaman Khan, Bebe Mahru, the industrial part of Yeka Tot, and Deh Khodaydad. As a result of this savage action by the warmongering extremists, one person was martyred in Qala-e Zaman Khan, two persons—including a 16-year-old girl—were martyred in Bebe Mahru, and two persons were martyred in the industrial part of Yeka Tot. Eight others, including women and children, were wounded.

Another missile hit a nonresidential area and did not cause any loss of life nor financial damage. The injured were immediately sent to the hospital and are under observation. The report adds that as a result of a missile being fired at Qala-e Zaman Khan, a house was destroyed.

Islamabad Radio Notes Attack on Shindand Airport

BK1601160689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan note fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces at various parts of the country and mounting losses in men and material.

The mujahidin carried out a rocket attack on the Shindand airport, destroying two aircraft parked on the runway and other installations. They also shot an aircraft landing at the airport of Tarin Kowt, headquarters of Oruzgan Province. The mujahidin also launched a joint offensive on the old and new sections of Bagram city and damaged three tanks of the Kabul regime and killed eight soldiers.

Mujahidin Capture Gowshtah, Down Plane

BK1701082289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin recently captured the Gowshtah area in Nangarhar Province. They are also reported to have shot down a Kabul regime aircraft when it was taking off from Konduz airport.

Mujahidin Capture Military Post 15 Jan

LD1701104189 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] London, Jan. 17, IRNA—Jaganry [placename as received] military post in the northeast of Qandahar Airport was caputured by the Afghan mujahidin Sunday night at 8 p.m., said Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) in a wireless message from Quetta according to a report by AAP monitored in London Monday.

During the fighting two mujahidin were wounded but they seized two 76 mm long-range artillery pieces, two anti-aircraft guns, four heavy machine guns and a large quantity of ammunition.

According to the report, the mujahidin have escalated their attacks around the Qandahar Airport which is partialy surrounded by them.

Mujahidin Down Helicopter in Qandahar Province
BK1701120789 Hong Kong AFP in English
1202 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 17 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas shot down an Afghan Army helicopter while it was bombing mujahidin positions in the Zangabad area of southern Qandahar Province, resistance sources said Tuesday.

Four government troops were killed when the helicopter was shot down on Sunday [15 January], the sources said.

They said the mujahidin also captured a headquarters of the Afghan Army in Arghistan District, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Qandahar Airport, on Saturday [14 January] after government troops fled in five transport helicopters.

The mujahidin guerrillas recovered two 122mm guns, two 76mm guns and a significant quantity of ammunition from the headquarters, the sources said.

Bangladesh

Ershad Calls for Parliament Meeting on 1 Feb
BK1401091889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 14 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has summoned a meeting of Bangladesh's Parliament, the BSS news agency reported Saturday.

The agency, quoting an official announcement, said the session was set for February 1 but gave no other details.

The session will be the 300-member body's third since it was elected last March in a controversial vote that was boycotted by the country's major opposition parties.

The Parliament, in which Mr. Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party has more than a two-thirds majority, held its opening session in April.

During the lengthy session it passed a controversial constitutional amendment making Islam Bangladesh's state religion for the first time.

It again met for a special session in October to discuss devastating floods that had ravaged the country, leaving 2,200 people dead, some 30 million homeless and crops and development infrastucture worth millions of dollars damaged or destroyed.

The third session was called following this week's visit of two U.S. congressional delegations amid speculation that Mr. Ershad might call fresh elections if the leading opposition parties agreed to participate.

A senior ruling party leader and former prime minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, in an interview published here Saturday, dismissed the speculation, saying there was no reason to dissolve the present Parliament, which was elected for a five-year term to expire in March 1993.

Steps Taken To Repatriate Stranded Pakistanis
BK1301132889 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Necessary arrangements are being made for the repatriation of some stranded [since 1971] Pakistanis holding International Committee of Red Cross cards, from Bangladesh to Pakistan. An official handout says the heads of concerned families have been asked to contact the nearest offices of deputy commissioners by the 25th of this month with photographs and necessary papers.

Outgoing Indian Envoy Meets Ershad 17 Jan
BK1801063689 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The outgoing Indian high commissioner, Prof I.S. Chadha, made a farewell call on President Ershad in Dhaka this morning. He also called on the president's political adviser and deputy prime minister in charge of the Information Ministry, Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

India

Venkataraman, Rao To Attend Hirohito Funeral
BK1701125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The president will attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito of Japan on the 24th of next month. An official announcement in New Delhi says Mr Venkataraman will be accompanied by Mrs Janaki Venkataraman and the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

rds Signed With USR
BK1301160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] India and the Soviet Union are to have increased cooperation in civil aviation and tourism. Some major agreements to this effect were signed in Moscow today.

The civil aviation and tourism secretary, Mr S.K. Mishra, said in Moscow that the agreements will provide more aircraft for Indian Airlines, Air India, and Vayudoot.

He said a joint flight by Air India and Aeroflot is likely to begin next month to Harare from Moscow through Bombay or New Delhi.

Econo

*BK160*mic Protocols Signed With USSR, Poland
1530 G1160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
MT 16 Jan 89

[Text] I
to stre India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol
Soviet ngthen cooperation in the power sector. The
of the 4 Union will provide assistance in the completion
housie-400 kilowatt Kishanpur-Srinagar segment of Dal-
high alt Srinagar transmission line which runs through
titude snow-bound areas.

The pr
week-lo otocol was signed in New Delhi today after a
also ide ng meeting of the joint working group. The group
new pr ntified various steps for timely commissioning of
mal po ojects like the second stage of Vindhyachal ther-
wer station.

A proto
scientif col to strengthen cooperation in economic, trade,
was als ic, and technical fields between India and Poland
Sathe, a o signed today. The energy minister, Mr Vasant
the Cou and the chairman of Socio-Political Committee of
signed tuncil of Ministers of Poland, Mr (A. Kozlowski),
Commis the protocol at the end of the India-Polish Joint
develop ission meeting. Both sides stressed the need for
ping joint ventures.

Defens

*BK170*e Official on Possible Export of Arms
17 Jan 8 144089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT
89

[Text] N
exportin New Delhi, Jan 17 (AFP)—India is considering
and allong defence equipment to neighboring countries
trolled owing its private sector into a government-con-
said. defence industry, a senior defence official has

"We are
items we reviewing how we can export Indian defence
ples," D without compromising on certain basic princi-
view in Defence Secretary T.N. Seshan said in an inter-
AFFAIR the latest issue of DEFENCE AND FOREIGN
RS magazine.

Exports
industry of defence equipment would boost the defence
y by getting rid of any surplus equipment, he said.

It is the
defence second time in four months that a senior Indian
internati official has suggested India might enter the
tional military equipment market as an exporter.

Last Oct
said Ind October, Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant
to neigh dia was considering exporting defence equipment
he did n boring Nepal and Sri Lanka, but like Mr. Seshan
not say which items were being considered.

India is
importer one of the world's largest military equipment
of arms, rs although it has long condemned the build-up
, observers noted.

Mr. Ses
nation's shan said the government, which controls the
the priva defence industry, was also thinking of involving
vate sector in defence production.

The government currently has nine defence production units employing 10,000 people in the manufacture of missiles, ships, submarines, aircraft, earth-moving equipment, machine tools, sensors and communication equipment.

Several ordnance factories also make tanks, armoured cars, arms and ammunition.

India imports defence equipment mainly from its ally the Soviet Union, but in recent years has been increasing imports from the United States and Western Europe.

Ammunition, Explosives Seized in Kashmir
BK1401160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Police have seized a large dump of ammunition in a village in southern Kashmir. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General of Police] of the Kashmir range told PTI that hundreds of rounds of bullets and explosives were recovered during a raid on a terrorist hideout. One terrorist was also arrested.

'Terrorists' Blow Up Railway Track in Punjab
BK1601074889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists blew up railway track on the Amritsar-Pathankot section of the Northern Railway between Kathunangal and Jayantipur last night. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this morning that over 1-meter-long portion of the track was blown up in the blast.

One terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces at village Fatehpur in Jullundur District this morning. One AK-47 rifle, one pistol, and some ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorist.

The police also arrested four terrorists at Majitha in Amritsar District. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession.

4 Killed in Separate Incidents in Amritsar
BK1701151489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists killed four persons in separate incidents since last night. Two BSF jawans [Border Security Force soldiers] were injured when a booby trap exploded near Shankerpura village of Amritsar District. Security forces have arrested seven more terrorists and recovered some arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, security forces today foiled yet another attempt by terrorists to blow up a railway track near Randhir Singh Nagar in Ludhiana this afternoon. The terrorists had placed a bomb on the track which was

timely detected by alert security forces. The bomb was later defused by Army experts. This was the third such attempt by terrorists in the state to blow up rail tracks.

'Terrorists' Kill 4 in Gurdaspur District
BK1801031689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead four members of a family in village Burike under Ramdas police station last night. They also killed a farmer in village Cheemabut. In another incident, terrorists attacked a village defense post and took away 10 rifles and 250 rounds of ammunition from village Sambhavan in Gurdaspur District.

Explosion Reported at Oil Rig; 3 Missing
BK1501160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Three persons, including a geologist of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC], were missing following an explosion at a jack-up rig in the (Damono) flow area near Bombay this morning.

Our correspondent, who visited the rig, quoting an ONGC spokesman says that 54 of the 57 people working on the platform have been rescued. An intensive search is on to trace the other three.

Several fire fighting vessels, including naval and Coast Guard helicopters, have been pressed into service to extinguish the blaze in the well.

Our correspondent adds that the intensity of the fire has considerably slowed down and the fire is expected to be extinguished by tomorrow. A high level inquiry has been ordered into the cause of the mishap.

Agra Station of All India Radio Inaugurated
BK1601161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] The Agra station of All India Radio started functioning this afternoon. This is the 96th AIR station in the country and 10th in Uttar Pradesh. Initially, programs will be broadcast for 5 and ½ hours from 1730 [1200 GMT].

Inaugurating it, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, said AIR is close to its aim of ensuring round-the-clock service throughout the country. He said several steps are being taken to develop broadcasting units.

Iran

Khomeyni Pardons 4,500 Convicts in Khorasan
LD1601222389 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Jan. 16, IRNA—Some 4,500 convicts jailed in Khorasan Province have been pardoned upon Imam Khomeyni's order on the occasion of first decade of the Islamic revolution's victory (February 1-11).

The pardoned will be released in two stages: 3467 before the Ten-Day Dawn and the remaining 1,033 during those ten days, said a prison official. He said, of those pardoned, 2000 are imprisoned in Mashhad and the others in various towns and cities of the northeastern province.

The pardoned prisoners have undergone one third of their sentences and their behaviour was observed to be satisfactory by jail wardens.

Several other petty convicts—but not those held for capital crimes—in various other cities would also be released on the occasion.

Imprisoned Soldiers Pardoned
LD1701180689 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Ilam, Jan. 17, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni has pardoned 110 soldiers with imprisonment terms ranging from two months to four years.

The prisoners were released here over the past few days. The military court has also set free 113 other soldiers after reviewing their files.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran (February 1-11) many prisoners are to be released all over the country.

In Khorasan Province alone, 4,500 prisoners will be released in two stages, but of course the imam's clemency order does not include drug smugglers and others who have committed capital crimes.

RESALAT on Expediency Discernment Council

5 Jan Editorial
NC1601124189 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Jan 89 pp 3, 9

[Part one of unattributed article entitled: "About the Expediency Discernment Council"]

[Excerpts] During the past few days some rather spirited discussions have been held regarding the Expediency Discernment Council. One spoke of it in reverential

tones, another gave some guidance on it, one was concerned about the plight of the Kuhdasht residents, and another wrote sarcastically about it. One even sympathetically asked: Now what will happen to the rights of the Majlis? In brief, each one of them commented directly or indirectly on it.

The esteemed Council of Guardians, which does not usually answer, spoke on the Kuhdasht matter and even clarified some aspects of it. The Expediency Discernment Council had two monumental tasks at hand. The first was to approve laws for drug penalties, and the second was to increase the stringency of punishments for those who steal, plunder, and misappropriate government and private funds.

If these two issues had been permitted to follow the normal course of law through the Judiciary, the Majlis, the Council of Guardians, and then through government channels, it would have taken a very long time.

Contrary to expectations—that the respected Majlis deputies and all the sections of society would emphatically support and endorse these two valuable measures—one of the Majlis deputies, who normally favors decisiveness on the part of the Judiciary and is a vociferous advocate for stepping up punishments of the capitalists and those who steal from the Treasury, seemed very concerned and remarked: As God is my witness, I am afraid that this may discredit the Expediency Discernment Council! [passage omitted]

The most important subject that came under debate in the immediate aftermath of the revolution was the way the country was to be governed. The establishment of the Council of Experts and the compilation of the Constitution can be considered the best solution. At the very outset, it was apparent that the revolution and the country had very difficult days ahead.

World oppression and non-Islamic world opinion did not identify with the interests of Islam and the revolution and embarked on a course of obstructionism and internal and external plots. This necessitated greater vigilance on the part of the ummah and nation and greater sacrifices and heroism. [passage omitted]

Praise be to God, despite all the conspiracies, obstructionism, deceit, treachery, optimism, and pessimism, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution was prepared and compiled in the best possible manner with the guidance of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, under the supervision of the oppressed martyr and great jurisconsult Ayatollah Beheshti, and using the knowledge, expertise, acumen, and perspicacity of the devoted Islamic jurisconsults.

As stipulated in its preface, the Constitution "explains the cultural, social, political, and economic organizations of the Iranian society and is based on Islamic principles which reflect the wholehearted desires of the Islamic nation." [passage omitted]

Ever since the Constitution was approved, the leader of the revolution, the elders, and sympathizers of the revolution have always supported the Constitution, and they continue to do so. One example of such support is the beautiful and mature writing of the eminent jurisconsult Ayatollah Montazeri in the preface to his book on debates held by the Council of Experts on the Constitution.

However, occasionally, there are comments made about revising the Constitution. They come from two groups:

1. Those who have no other motive but the completion of the foundation for the Islamic Republic of Iran and who wish that the Constitution would be made more complete and comprehensive.

2. Those who have ulterior motives and want to attain them by whatever means possible.

Regarding the first group, it may be said: It is true that the Constitution is not a "divine revelation" that cannot be debated. However, voicing opinions on the subject should be done with immense care and attention, with a view to the circumstances of time and place so that the desired results may be attained and so that the opinions do not provide a pretext for those wanting to dismantle the Constitution.

Now about the second group: We should pay attention and see what they want individually. There are some who are under the influence of the broad-minded parts of society. While they are Muslims and devoted to the revolution and the leadership, they do not like the restrictions of jurisprudence and jurisconsults in the Constitution. They want what they consider retrogressive to be eliminated and more worldly ideas to be substituted instead!

We should say to this group: Do not take the trouble needlessly. Jurisprudence and the rule of the jurisconsult have become so ingrained in the people that even such covert nonconformists have to propound their nonconformist ideas under the name of progressive jurisprudence or jurisprudence of the oppressed, and for a long time they used a title of one of the works by the martyr Beheshti, "In Search of Jurisprudence."

In view of the irrevocable nature of the Constitution, any type of change or amendment must conform with jurisprudence or the experts on jurisprudence, and nothing else.

7 Jan Editorial

NC1801073789 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
7 Jan 89 p 3

[Part two of unattributed article entitled: "About the Expediency Discernment Council"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There is yet another group which enthusiastically accepts the Constitution because it complies with their viewpoint or is in harmony with their interests. They interpret the Constitution to suit their own interests. Such individuals are incorrigible, as the interests of the country, society, or revolution are of no importance to them. They are only interested in their own selfish aims. They prefer the Constitution to be shaky so that they may interpret it and distort it for their own ends.

In order to achieve this purpose they strive to undermine the Constitution at every possible opportunity and to attack its mainstays, in particular the Council of Guardians. They argue for revisions and addenda to the Constitution. We thank God that such individuals are not numerous, but even a single doubt has a negative effect, as has been seen in the past 8 years. Therefore, one cannot ignore such people. This is especially evident during Majlis elections and the presentation of bills and other controversial plans in the Majlis.

Of course, to a certain extent it is natural that when a candidate does not win the desired number of votes in elections the object of his wrath is the Council of Guardians, even though it is not the reason for his not winning.

The Council of Guardians is the highest legitimate authority in elections and its jurisconsults have been approved by the rule of the jurisconsult and the imam himself, the great leader. Therefore, we should pledge allegiance to them. They have a legal status affirmed by the Constitution, and we should accept their opinions.

The legal experts of the Council of Guardians have also been endorsed by the Supreme Judicial Council and they have been duly elected by the Majlis, that is, the legislature and the judiciary. It may be said that any criticism of the Council of Guardians is tantamount to criticism of the rule of the jurisconsult, the eminent leadership, and the Constitution, as well as the legislature and the judiciary.

However, this seems to be of no consequence to this group. Some of them have had the audacity to criticize, accuse, and denigrate the Council of Guardians. It is interesting to note that most of them are Majlis deputies, and their credibility as representatives has been endorsed by the Council of Guardians.

For example, it has been seen on many occasions that those who criticized the Council of Guardians in the second term of the Majlis and have committed many such audacious acts have become Majlis deputies in the third term. This means that the Council of Guardians did not reject them.

This in itself is an example of the impartiality and justness of the Council of Guardians, under the aegis of which they have once again become Majlis members. However, they continue to use the official Majlis rostrum to show their insolence against the Council of Guardians. [passage omitted]

The government situation is as follows:

The jurisconsult [Khomeyni] is at the helm of affairs.

The Majlis is in charge of lawmaking. The Council of Guardians assesses the Islamic laws and the Constitution—in keeping with its obligations—to check for any contradictions between them. Essential matters are judged by the jurisconsult and a quorum of two thirds of the Majlis deputies. The discernment of expediencies is the duty of the Expediency Discernment Council (in addition to the jurisconsult).

Therefore, a country should have the necessary means at its disposal to resolve its problems and difficulties, especially in times of war, when the special circumstances dictate speed of action.

In light of this statement, does the Expediency Discernment Council fortify the administration and its evolution, and bolster the organizations and foundations of the system as well as the sacred organization, the Council of Guardians; or, God forbid, does it weaken the Council of Guardians, the Majlis, or the government? [passage omitted]

The jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians are themselves members of the Expediency Discernment Council. However, the discernment of expediency is not one of the functions of the Council of Guardians. Because the country needs a discernment of interests which in turn requires expertise in various fields of jurisprudence, the imam has presently delegated this responsibility to experts in the various fields of jurisprudence, politics, and other executive branches. It is possible he may bestow it on another individual or group or he may decide on the expediency himself. [passage omitted]

Therefore, while expediency exists, the Expediency Discernment Council will continue to give its opinion in the event of any differences between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. It will do so as it sees fit and all should abide by its decisions. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Minister To Visit 4-5 Feb

LD1801120489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has told correspondents in Paris that he will pay a visit to Tehran 4-5 February 1989.

French International Radio, reporting this today, attributed great importance to the visit, considering it as the end of cool relations between Iran and France.

Mexico To Open Embassy in 'Near Future'

LD1801121489 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Mexico is to open an embassy in Tehran in the near future, said Mexican Foreign Relations Minister Fernando Solana in a meeting with Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Mexico City Mas'ud Idrisi on Tuesday.

During the meeting the Iranian diplomat submitted a written message from Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with the trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks and bilateral relations.

Idrisi briefed the Mexican minister on Iraqi obstruction of implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 aimed at ending the Iraq-Iran war. He called on the Mexican Government to back full execution of the resolution.

The Mexican foreign minister thanked Velayati for his message and said that his country supports all efforts aimed at establishment of peace.

He added that opening of the Mexican Embassy in Tehran will be a major step towards promotion of Tehran-Mexico City relations.

UK Prisoner Publishes Article on Relations

LD1601205489 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Roger Cooper, British journalist and businessman imprisoned in Iran on spying charges for over two years, has written an article published Monday in Iran's leading daily assessing London's relations with Iran.

He said after years of "hostility" Britain was trying to repair its ties with Iran and change the Iranian public view of Britain as an old but still influential imperialist power.

Though London's policy had not fully taken shape it would probably be a mixture of "toughness and softness" and it was up to Iran to "choose", depending on what course it took from now on in domestic and international arenas.

He warned that if the Islamic Republic pursued an "adventurist" policy especially in Lebanon and the Persian Gulf the hawks would prevail in the Foreign Office otherwise Britain would follow the same neutral policy that Japan and most West European states currently had.

The article covering two-thirds of a full inside page was published by the daily KEYHAN which gave it the biggest front-page headline: "British Spy Reveals His Country's Past and Present Policies Towards Iran".

Cooper was arrested in December 1986. Later he appeared on Iranian television to say he had contacts with a British intelligence agency which authorities in London have claimed does not exist.

His brother, Paul Cooper who works as a research journalist for one of Britain's private television companies has visited him in prison a number of times and says Roger is not a spy and wants to clear his name.

Last month Iran freed a Briton, Nicolas Nicola caught after an exchange of gun fire near Iran's eastern border. He spent some two years in jail.

Britain said last week relations with Iran could not fully improve as long as Cooper remained in prison and British hostages in Lebanon were not set free.

KEYHAN said the letter had been handed over by the relevant authorities whom it did not name.

"Cooper's aricle contains his explicit views on Britain's interventionist policy in Iran and its total alignment with the hostile policy of the Great Satan (the U.S.)," KEYHAN said.

His article was written in Persian which Cooper mastered during his 20 years in Iran prior to his arrest. Samples of his handwritten article were published by KEYHAN.

Cooper gave negative description of British policy in Iran but in many instances tried to balance his view. At some points he described issues from an Iranian angle and then from the opposite Western one.

He said the beating up of British diplomat Edward Chaplin in Tehran in May 1987 following similar treatment towards an Iranian diplomat Ahmad Qassemi in Manchester, "could be considered an ugly and unjustifiable act".

"But if we look at it as a retaliation not only for the Qassemi case but also for 200 years of British colonialism in this land, it would then become more understandable."

He also said the 1953 coup which returned the shah to power with CIA assistance, marked the end of Britain's role as a "wolf" that until then had dominated the Iranian "sheep" for two centuries, he said.

Britain then concentrated more on trade and less on a strategic relationship with Tehran. "In other words the British wolf turned into a thief."

"Of course," he added "I cannot judge whether Britain's trade ties with Iran was legitimate or illegitimate. All I would say is that from my personal experience it is not that easy to exploit an Iranian."

He mentioned the nationalization of the British-controled oil industry in the early 50's and the take-over of the American Embassy in Tehran in 1979 as two of the most important events in Iranian contemporary history.

But the first was, initially at least, a financial setback for Iran and the second led to an American economic and military embargo on Iran, he said.

"Nevertheless Iran has gained a kind of self-confidence in the face of the superpowers and this rooted and growing determination and spirit of the Iranian nation has and will assist it in relations with the superpowers."

He believed London was now trying to repair its relations with the Islamic Republic partly because its "hostile policies" towards Tehran for many years after the revolution had not produced the desired political result.

The main aim of the new policy was to change the common distrustful view of Britain in Iran "which of course would be impossible without total sincerity and action to prove it."

For the time being the British Embassy in Tehran, reopened last month, had just two clear functions: to resume normal diplomatic activities in Tehran after eight years and increase trade. But as far as overall British policy towards Iran was concerned, it was yet to become clear.

He described Britain's Charge d'Affaires Gordon Pirie as being most likely "unfamiliar with the basics of politics" and the future ambassador would be as professional as Sir Anthony Parsons, Britain's last ambassador to the shah's regime.

"My view is that British decision-makers have not yet come to a consensus in this regard and they were waiting to see what Iran was aiming for internally and internationally."

Iran had not been defeated in the war with Iraq but had not become the victor either and London was waiting to see whether the Islamic Republic would or could export its revolution or if it would limit its goal to internal social and economic reconstruction.

"If the first case prevails the hawks would dominate policy-making at the Foreign Office but if Iran stops its 'adventurism' abroad particularly in Lebanon and the Persian Gulf (Britain) would overlook Iran's internal political developments as is the policy of Japan and most members of the European Community."

In any case, he added, London's policy would be a "mixture of toughness and softness and it was up to Iran to choose."

IRNA Assails UK Papers Over Muslim Protest

LD1701175089 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] London, Jan. 17, IRNA—The right-wing press in Britain is more concerned with the Muslim community's attempt to ban a blasphemous book on Islam than the onslaught of attacks on its own eroding rights to publish.

THE LONDON TIMES, DAILY TELEGRAPH and DAILY MAIL Tuesday joined in double standards adopted by THE INDEPENDENT newspaper on Monday, when it suggested that Muslims should have no rights to protest about a scurrilous attack on Islam.

THE TIMES accepted that "SATANIC VERSES", written by Cambridge University trained Salman Rushdie, was "derogatory" but said that the public burning of his book by more than 1,000 Muslims in the northern English city of Bradford was "unacceptable" in what it termed a "free democracy".

It suggested that Britain's 2-million Muslims, now in their third generation, were still "newcomers" and presumably had come to accept British standards of democracy but made no reference about the thousands of Muslim coverts from the indigenous Anglo-Saxon population.

Muslims should accept that freedom of speech and writing was essential to the culture in the U.K, said the daily which is over-protective when Zionism or Jewish interests are at stake.

Even more outrageous, the DAILY TELEGRAPH had the audacity to advise Islamic leaders to maintain a sense of proportion and "to recall, that as citizens or residents of this country, they have a responsibility to respect the British tradition of free speech."

But strangely enough this so-called British tradition of freedom of action or speech does not apply where Muslims protest attacks on values they hold dear.

However, it had to admit that the Muslim community was noted for its hard work, piety and devotion to family values.

THE DAILY MAIL in its editorial also emphasized that Britain was what it called a "free country" and that the complaint of blasphemy about the book was only a "claim."

Born of Muslim parents in India, the controversial author is a naturalized British citizen, and his poisonous pen has always drew laurels from the British press because of its anti-Islamic nature.

Iravani Urges Better Ties With Pakistan
LD1501200389 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani told the Pakistani envoy today that the Islamic Republic attaches special importance to expansion of its relations with Islamabad.

"Time for the two countries to promote their relations to a favourable level," Iravani added.

In response, Ambassador Tanvir Ahmed Khan expressed hope Tehran and Islamabad could eliminate all existing problems in the upcoming session of joint economic commission, which he added would be instrumental in enhancing the volume of bilateral trade exchanges.

The two also reviewed the letter of understanding signed between the two neighbours last year in Islamabad and exchanged views on further upgrading of joint border cooperation.

Afghan Mujahidin Leader on Temporary Government
LD1701130488 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—The Afghan mujahidin hope to set up a temporary government before Soviet troops complete their withdrawal in mid-February, a mujahidin leader said Tuesday.

"Necessary steps have been taken for the formation of a provisional government hopefully in early February," said Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, leader of the mujahidin alliance based in Pakistan.

He was speaking to IRNA before departing Tehran with other senior mujahidin figures who took part in a seminar on Afghanistan earlier in the week.

Mujadeddi said initially a temporary council would be set up with Afghan religious leaders as its members and later the head of the government and cabinet members would be selected from all mujahidin groups as well as "Muslim individuals" inside Afghanistan.

Asked about the role of the eight-party mujahidin coalition based in Iran, he said "the issue of setting up the government is being coordinated with this coalition and all groups will play a part in it."

On Sunday Mujadeddi had warned that the mujahidin had to fill the political vacuum after the Soviets left Afghanistan or else the country could face further bloodshed as rival groups maneuvered for power. To avoid such a possibility the resistance leaders had to agree on a single leader and a coalition government, he stressed.

The Afghan leader did not rule out further talks with the Soviet Union on Afghanistan's future but said if talks did not produce results "the battle to wipe out communism in Afghanistan would continue."

He said the present Moscow-backed Marxist regime in Kabul was the main cause of death and destruction in Afghanistan and could not have any role in the future government.

Mujadeddi thanked the Islamic Republic for holding the seminar on Afghanistan which was held at the Institute for Political and International Studies, affiliated to the Foreign Ministry. The seminar was useful in facilitating the exchange of views on Afghanistan he added and called on other Islamic countries to hold similar gatherings.

During their stay Mujadeddi and other senior mujahidin figures [met] President Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati.

They were seen off at Mehrabad airport by Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs Javad Mansuri and representatives of the mujahidin coalition in Tehran.

Khamene'i Assesses Tour of Lorestan Province
LD1301122689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i returned to Tehran today at the end of his tour of Lorestan Province. Our colleague, Amiri, interviewed the president at Khorramabad airport as he was about to leave for Tehran. We invite you to listen to the interview.

[Begin recording] [Amiri] Mr Khamene'i, during your stay in Lorestan you met with various strata of the people as well as with officials. Please tell us how you assess the results of your tour and also the reports submitted by local officials on the deprivations in the province.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I toured several cities and towns. I also sent teams to tour them. These were (Firuz) and Aligudarz. I made a very positive assessment of the morale of the people in the province and of the position they have taken for the revolution. It is at an excellent level.

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ey are a very faithful, sincere people, devoted to the olution, and in love with the imam. They are ready to ggle and work, just as they did during the 8 years of and during the 10-year postrevolutionary era.

for the resources and capabilities of the province, I with officials and read the reports from various ricts. I feel the province abounds with resources that be exploited. During reconstruction, we should con- er this province as being a prime location for exten- e exploitation.

u referred to deprivation. Of course, this province doubtedly suffers deprivation, as many other prov- es in our country do. However, I am not able to assess am I able to compare the deprivation of this prov- e with other provinces such as Baluchestan or parts of th Khorasan or Zanjan, or other places. I gather that his province, at least in some parts of it, there are very rived areas.

was decided that we will review these problems and low them up from Tehran. Although the governor- eral came to the province only recently, he brings ensive experience from his former position as deputy ector of development in this province. God willing, in hran we will survey the problems more extensively. d willing, the necessary assistance will be given to the ent the government's resources permit and the offi- ls of the various departments and ministries deem sible.

ank God, I saw the province in good shape in many ects. The province has a very good group of clergy, ecially in some cities I visited such as Khorramabad d in other places. Also, in other cities that I did not it, to where I sent teams, I learned that these also have ive clerics. His Excellency Mr Firuzi is the honourable day prayers leader of Khorramabad as well as the

rtunately, I found other clerics to be very valuable and namic. Moreover, in some parts of the province there good seminaries. In general, it was a good visit. [end cording]

Vel
layati Tells UN Mission of Iraqi Violations
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15 D1501194989 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT
Jan 89*

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ext] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali bar Velayati today strongly stressed on withdrawal of iqi forces from Iranian soil.

a meeting with Major General Slavko Jovic, com- ander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military server Group (UNIIMOG) Velayati also detailed merous cases of ceasefire violations by Baghdad.

Appreciating the U.N. group's efforts at the fronts, he placed emphasis on the "importance and sensitivity of the UNIIMOG task."

Jovic in response lauded Iranian hospitality and counted the problems UNIIMOG is faced with in its monitoring of the armistice in the Iraqi war which went into effect on August 20 last year.

Slavko Jovic arrived in Tehran on August 18 to head the group following the Islamic Republic's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 (July 18), whose first article resulted in the ceasefire in the almost eight year long Iraqi aggression.

The second article calls for immediate troop withdrawal to the internationally-recognized border, which the Iraqi regime is still to comply with, having under occupation hundreds of kilometres of Iranian territory.

The two countries' foreign ministers have so far left behind three rounds of U.N. mediated face-to-face talks but Iraqi procrastinations have prevented any positive result. The fourth round of talks is to be held soon.

Naval Destroyer 'Sabalan' To Rejoin Fleet

LD1401150189 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Jan. 14, IRNA—Major repair work on the Sabalan destroyer has been completed and the vessel will rejoin the Navy in the coming months, head of the shipyard of the first naval zone announced today.

The destroyer was damaged during a clash with the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf who attacked Iran's offshore oil rigs last April.

The official elsewhere said the shipyard has successfully repaired and overhauled the Navy vessels as well as ships of other organisations since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran without reliance on foreign countries.

The yard is planning to carry out basic repairs on other combat vessels of the Navy and "depending on agreements and needed credits will start to manufacture warships inside the country," said the official.

Official Comments on Anti-Drug Campaign

LD1501194489 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—The trend of the anti-drug campaign and the stringent measures adopted by Iranian officials and people to weed out narcotics were explained by the deputy commander of the Islamic revolution's committees for foreign and local reporters today.

The spread of drug addiction in the Third World is a colonialist plot, said Mahmud Mirlohi and pointed out that narcotics are mainly produced in the remote inaccessable areas of neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Southeast Asian "Golden Triangle", and then put at the disposal of international traffickers.

Asked whether international bodies really want to campaign against these dangerous drugs, Mirlohi expressed doubt on the superpowers' position, and said while addiction has reached saturation point in Western countries, they only try to hoodwink by coining deceptive slogans at conferences. "No serious measure has ever been taken by them in this regard," he noted.

On the drug campaign in Iran, Mirlohi said since 1981, 200 tons of narcotics has been seized from armed gangs, but it is not clear that how much drug was distributed in or transitted through Iran.

Drug trafficking has risen markedly over the recent years to the extent that in the first nine months of the current year (March 21-December 20) 1,540 kilos of heroin, 19,902 kilos of opium, 2.242 kilos of hashish and 443 kilos of morphine was seized, he said.

Criticising the policy of certain neighbouring countries towards the narcotics, Mirlohi questioned their sincerity in this regard. "We even arrested gangs who were missioned by the installed regime of Kabul to plant bombs in Iran."

Reiterating that Iran is determined to fight the death merchants, Mirlohi said the Soviet Union, Turkey and Pakistan have promised to cooperate with Iran in order to destroy the drug bridge.

Elsewhere, Mirlohi lashed out at the British and Dutch support for the executed drug smugglers in Iran and asked "should the British Parliament defend a smuggler with 371 kilos of heroin or it should defend 5,000 innocent people who were killed by the chemical arms in the town of Halabjah (March 16)?"

"Do the smugglers who gradually kill millions of people deserve the support of the international forums?" he questioned.

In response to a question posed by reporters on the situation of drug addicts in Iran, he said a six-months respite has been given today as of 21 January, and that all medical possibilities have been mobilized for the addicts to give up their addiction.

Some one million addicts is estimated to be living in Iran, Mirlohi said noting that 17,594 smugglers have been arrested which include 67 percent of the total prisoners in Iran.

Regretting that drug consumption inflict a loss of 500 billion rials (more than dlrs, 7 billion) on the country, Mirlohi said however that the Islamic Republic is trying to use drug addicts in reconstruction programs in the country in order to thwart the enemies plots to destroy the manpower of the country.

Meanwhile, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reported here today that eight smugglers are to be executed in Esfahan and Rasht. Seven of the smugglers will be executed in Esfahan for carrying 806 kilos of heroin and 1,425 kilos of opium as well as carrying guns and the eighth is from Rasht who faces a death sentence for trafficking drugs and engaging in corruptive act.

3 More Political Groups Apply for Permits

LD1401165489 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 14 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—The Islamic Jihad Party, the Islamic Futurist Party and the Martyr Navab Safavi Party are the latest to have asked for a permit for political activity, the daily ETTELA'AT reported.

The Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Futurist Parties are not believed to have had previous existance.

The Martyr Navab Safavi Party however are the former colleagues and followers of Iran's first modern Islamic guerrilla group who assassinated a number of senior officials prior to the 1953 coup.

They were known as Iran's Islamic Brotherhood who identified with the famous Egyptian group. They have published the periodical MANSUR BARADARI (brotherhood charter) since the revolution.

ETTELA'AT said so far 28 groups had sought recognition from the Interior Ministry this month when a seven-year old law on political, religious and cultural activities was revived.

The paper listed the names of some of the groups with the names of those who applied. They include:

—The Women's Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Zahra Mostafavi, Imam Khomeini's daughter)

—The Islamic Jihad Party (Gholamreza Jabbari)

—The Islamic Futurist Party (Mostafa Mir-Jalili)

—The Martyr Navab Safavi Party (Mohammad Mehdi Abd-Khoda'i)

—The Mojahidin-e Khalq Movement of Iran (Lotfollah Meysami)

—The Freedom Movement of Iran (Mehdi Bazargan, former prime minister)

—The Society for the Defence of Freedom (Mohammad Tavasoli, former Tehran mayor)

Improvement Sought in Ties With West, Israel

TA1701190189 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] According to political experts and observers who follow our homeland's affairs closely, the Islamic Republic regime has intensified its efforts seeking to emerge from its political and diplomatic isolation. The endeavors of the regime's leaders in this regard have not yet yielded any results.

European countries with which leaders of the Islamic Republic regime have held contacts have said frankly that as long as the Islamic Republic continues to violate the Iranian people's basic rights and ignore the warnings of international human rights organizations and circles with regard to the nation's basic rights, it should not expect the international community to respect the Islamic Republic and improve relations with it.

In this connection U.S. officials have informed intermediaries sent by the Islamic Republic regime that any negotiations must be official and public, and that the Islamic Republic regime must declare this matter officially.

Another report indicates that in order to once again draw the favorable attention of the Israeli Government, the Islamic Republic has embarked on new measures in recent months. Among the measures the Islamic Republic regime intends to carry out is the creation of widespread facilities for Iranian Jews to return to Iran.

With this measure the Islamic Republic regime wishes to again improve its relations with Israel. The number of Iranian Jews before the Islamic Revolution was about 80,000.

In subsequent years more than 50 percent left the country and emigrated to the United States and Israel.

Pakistan

Meeting Condemns U.S. Downing of Libyan Planes

BK1801111789 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Jan 89 p 1

[By Shahzada Zulfiqar]

[Text] Quetta, 7 Jan—A protest meeting against the shooting down of two Libyan aircraft by US planes was held here under the aegis of Jamiyat-i 'Ulema-i Islam [JUI] Friday at Meezan Chowk.

Addressing the gathering, Maulana Noor Mohammad, senior vice-president of JUI, Baluchistan, strongly condemned the naked aggression against Libya, a leading Islamic country.

The JUI leader said the government of Pakistan had not condemned the US aggression in strong terms; mere showing concern on the brutal attack on Libyan planes was not enough. He called upon government to sever diplomatic ties with United States of America and suitably protest against the "state terrorism".

He said the premeditated attack on Libyan aircrafts without any provocation clearly aimed at browbeating the sovereign and self-respecting nation and make it accept American overlordship. Why should the Americans talk of civilisation, democracy and peace in the world, when they themselves indulged in terrorism against smaller states, he asked.

The JUI leader further said that while American imperialists were supporting Israel against Palestinians, the Russians had occupied Afghanistan.

U.S. Position on Libyan Chemical Plant Assailed

BK1701150189 Lahore JANG in Urdu 31 Dec 88 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Designs Against Libya"]

[Text] U.S. hostility toward Muslims is a recognized fact. The United States maintains friendly relations with Islamic countries that have been pursuing its policies and are under its influence. It does not tolerate Islamic countries with independent policies that serve their own interests and those that implement Islamic tenets opposing imperialistic designs.

The United States for the last few days has been threatening Libya, creating an impression that it is out to launch another brazen aggression against this independent and sovereign Islamic nation. At first, it threatened to destroy a plant being built by Libya to produce chemical weapons. However, Libya strongly refuted the allegation and the Arab nations condemned the U.S. threat, describing any aggression against Libya as an aggression against the entire Arab world. Iraq, Syria, and Iran even went a step further and supported Libya in explicit terms. The United States then extended trade and economic sanctions against Libya, which includes a freeze on Libyan assets in the United States.

Libya's fault, in fact, is that it is not ready to come under the U.S. imperialistic influence. It is a major opponent of U.S. imperialistic designs and a staunch proponent of unity in the Islamic world. Moerover, it is not ready to compromise on Arab interests. This is why the United States accused it of pursuing a policy of terrorism and carried out bombing operations, inflicting considerable loss of life and property. Despite all these moves, the U.S. imperialists could not force Libya to its knees. What is needed today is for the entire Islamic world as well as the free world to be vocal in protesting U.S. aggressive designs and to announce complete solidarity with Libya and warn the United States to refrain from any aggressive operations against that country.

Spokesman on PLO Office, Afghan Aid, Indian Dam

BK1801113689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan has decided to raise the status of PLO representative office in Islamabad to that of an embassy and the representative would be addressed as the ambassador of Palestine. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that the decision to recognize the state of Palestine and raise the status of the PLO mission to that of an embassy reflects Pakistan's belief in the justice of the Palestinian cause and its firm support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan is providing humanitarian assistance only to Afghan refugees and is not extending any other kind of assistance to the Afghans.

Asked about the construction of Wular Barrage by India [in Indian-held Kashmir], he said Pakistan views it as a violation of the Indus Basin Treaty [between the two countries].

Spokesman on Solarz Role in India-Pakistan Talks

BK1701155189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Pakistan does not need any intermediary for any kind of talks with Indian leaders in connection with India-Pakistan relations. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the spokesman said that given the present cordial atmosphere between the two countries Pakistan can hold negotiations on any issue with India through normal contacts.

The spokesman was commenting on the question of whether Stephen Solarz was playing any special role in this regard. The spokesman added that the programs for several upcoming meetings between officials of the two countries and the schedule for the foreign ministerial-level joint commission meeting have already been prepared.

About the Afghanistan question, the spokesman reiterated that Pakistan is fully complying with the Geneva accords and firmly believes that a peaceful political settlement is the only solution to the Afghanistan problem. The spokesman added that a procedure already exists for the monitoring of the implementation of the accords and that no violation of these accords from the Pakistani side has been proved thus far.

Position on Nuclear Energy Plans Reaffirmed

BK1701082989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] Talking to a visiting American delegation—led by Mr Stephan Solarz, a well-known congressman belonging to the Democratic Party—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan stated categorically that Pakistan's nuclear program was designed purely for peaceful purposes and that Pakistan had no intention to build or acquire nuclear weapons. In order to dispel unwarranted criticism of the program the president stressed that the world must believe in what a democratic government says. Pakistan's position has all along been that the acquisition of nuclear energy is a dire necessity for it. For the last so many years it has been difficult for Pakistan to meet adequately its requirement of power even for domestic use and load-shedding has been resorted to on more or less a regular basis. For its growing industrial and agricultural needs, the conventional sources of energy are grossly insufficient and it should be appreciated that Pakistan can ill-afford the resultant setback to its economy.

The president has underscored the vital importance of nuclear technology for Pakistan and has declared Pakistan's resolve to build its own nuclear power plants in time to come. On nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the president reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent support for it on a basis of non-discrimination. Pakistan has always stood for nonproliferation but has resisted suggestions for its unilateral endorsement of the nonproliferation treaty. It has instead proposed that a regional approach to the problem should be evolved. Pakistan has on several occasions made a number of viable recommendations to be adopted by all countries of the region.

Pakistan's principled stand has been that other countries, which have a nuclear program, should also agree to abide by the same regulatory restrictions, as are desired to be imposed on Pakistan. Simultaneous signing of the nonproliferation treaty and inspection of nuclear facilities of the regional countries by international agencies are some of the offers made by Pakistan in this regard. Unfortunately, a bigger country of the region, which launched its nuclear program much earlier than Pakistan did, which has successfully exploded its nuclear device 15 years ago, and which had always declared that it is capable of manufacturing its own nuclear weapons in as short a period as 1 month, has always turned down these proposals rendering the question almost intractable.

A majority of the world states are now in favor of this regional approach on nuclear weapons as propounded by Pakistan. It should be helpful, if friendly states such as the United States impressed upon the desirability of its adoption by other states of the South Asian region also. Such a step, particularly by a major regional power, would be in the nature of a confidence-building measure which the smallest countries in the region so earnestly seek and whose usefulness, as may be recalled, was clearly emphasized in the recent SAARC summit conference.

Pakistan's position is clear. It has no desire to acquire weapons-grade nuclear capability but as a sovereign state it would not accept discrimination in this regard. Also it has every right to augment its energy resources and use nuclear technology for this purpose.

Editorial on India-Pakistan Agreements

BK1701163889 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 2 Jan 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Much Talked About India-Pakistan Agreements"]

[Text] The Fourth SAARC Summit Conference has ended with the same splendor and grandeur with which it began. Although the heads of state and government of the seven countries of the region had gathered together, Rajiv Gandhi's personality remained the center of attention because of the fact that an Indian prime minister was visiting Pakistan after a lapse of 30 years. The Pakistani prime minister made use of this opportunity to have talks with her Indian counterpart on bilateral matters, which led to the signing of three agreements, including an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations. The details, including the benefits, of the two remaining agreements have not been fully disclosed by the Indian or Pakistani media so far.

The agreement for not attacking each other's nuclear installations had already been finalized in principle by the two countries in 1985, but could not be formally signed until now because the heads of government of the two countries had not been able to meet with each other. In fact, it was India that needed to sign this agreement because it realized the danger that if it attacked the modest Pakistani nuclear center at Kahuta, Pakistan had the capability to destroy with its F-16 aircraft dozens of nuclear centers situated in various parts of India. It is good that something was achieved during the meeting, but there does not seem to be any appropriate cause for jubilation, because so long as the basic disputes between the two countries are not resolved, neither side is going to gain anything.

Unfortunately, it is India's attitude that has been impeding the development of bilateral relations based on equality. Although Rajiv Gandhi has now announced that a powerful, prosperous, and stable Pakistan is in the interest of India, he has also acknowledged that the Kashmir problem, the nuclear program, and the Siachen Glacier issue are obstacles in the way of development of India-Pakistan relations. And, in fact, it is India that has created all these problems that do not allow Pakistan to become "powerful, prosperous, and stable." The Pakistani prime minister also excitedly declared that "all obstacles in the way of peace will be removed." But, there should be no wishful thinking about what will happen by the time these claims take concrete shape, especially in light of the present prime minister's late father's statement that "we will continue to fight with India for 1,000 years."

The Jammu and Kashmir problem—for which the two countries have already tested their muscles in the battlefield and which may again provoke a cold war or a real war between the two in the future as well—remains unresolved. The Indian prime minister cannot declare the issue as settled by saying that "elections have been held four times in Kashmir and the people have been provided the opportunity to elect their leaders through the exercise of their right of franchise." These elections can in no way be considered a substitute for the right of self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UN resolution. If subjugated nations could have been satisfied with such elections, Britain, France, and other European colonial and neocolonial powers would not have granted independence to India, Pakistan, and other countries under their rule. They would have held regular elections and continued to rule the colonies. If this logic is considered valid, then India herself would have been under the shadow of the Union Jack and the Indian people would have been kept happy only through the process of elections held under the colonial powers of the British governor general. It is obviously illogical and the people cannot be deprived of their right to self-determination.

If the current political leadership in India and Pakistan want to take pride in any of their achievements, they should first of all settle the basic disputes, like Kashmir, in accordance with the UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. India should prove that it sincerely recognizes the existence of Pakistan, and New Delhi can give this proof by controlling its desire for hegemonism and supremacy in the region. It is in this way that the two countries will be able to think about cutting down their military expenses; otherwise, in the existence of basic disputes and tension, claims for friendship, peace, and mutual cooperation can prove only big talk and may lead to dangerous situations.

Bhutto Voices Resolve To Repeal Amendment

BK1501051089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has reiterated her government's determination to build a strong Pakistan based on equity and justice in order to take the nation into the 21st century. She was addressing lawyers at the annual dinner of the High Court Bar Association in Rawalpindi last night.

She said today there is rule of law and the people are enjoying their fundamental rights. These rights will be respected without regard for caste or creed. The prime minister called for building democracy on secure foundations to ensure that tyranny and oppression never again return to this country. To achieve this objective, she said the following areas must be stressed: restructuring institutions, reviving the economy, restoring national unity, and strengthening the federation, In this way all the provinces can take pride in Pakistan and the country can take its rightful place in the Islamic world and international community. She said that each of us will have to play our role in making Pakistan a modern, progressive, and democratic country as envisaged by our great leader [Jinnah].

Ms Benazir Bhutto said her government is determined to do away with the eighth constitutional amendment, which she described as one of the blackest spots of the past regime's legacy. She hoped that all democratic forces will cooperate with the government in abolishing the amendment in order to restore the Islamic, democratic, and representative 1973 Constitution. She said her government will also be ready to examine the question of the seven preceding amendments once the 1973 Constitution is restored. The prime minister expressed the hope that those opposed to the Pakistan People's Party government will keep in mind the goal of national unity in the greater interest of the country. She referred to the duties and responsibilities of the federation as stipulated in the Constitution and reaffirmed her government's commitment follow the Constitution.

Referring to the release of political prisoners, she said these people were sentenced for their political views. None of them were sentenced by any common court of law. We fully respect these courts.

Ms Benazir Bhutto also referred to the recent SAARC summit, which enhanced the country's prestige. She said that the three agreements signed with India on the occasion have helped defuse tension in relations, raising hopes of resolving other outstanding issues between the two countries.

The prime minister paid tribute to the law fraternity in its struggle to uphold democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights, and appreciated the role of sincere, honest people in the judiciary who maintained the supremacy of justice. She particularly commended those who refused to yield during the dictatorial regime.

Earlier, the president of the High Court Bar Association paid rich tribute to Ms Benazir Bhutto on her services for the restoration of a constitutional, democratic system. He emphasized the repeal of the eighth constitutional amendment and early construction of the Supreme Court building in Islamabad. The building's foundation stone was laid by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the martyr, in 1976.

Ministers Urge Restoration of Constitution

BK1801063089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] The federal law and justice minister, Sayeed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, has reiterated the commitment of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] government to restoring the 1973 Constitution in the same form as it was before the imposition of martial law on 4 July 1977. In an interview with Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television in Islamabad today, he said this is a major issue for the PPP. In fact, it is a vital issue for the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy also, as it contested the elections on this. He said the eighth amendment was a distortion of the balance of power not only between the prime minister and the president but also between the people of Pakistan and the president. This amendment made the Constitution illogical. The law minister said according to the wishes of the prime minister he has invited opposition leaders and members to sit down and discuss the matter, but they have not yet given any positive response. He said the government had a mandate from the people to restore the 1973 Constitution.

The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Senator Javed Jabbar, has said PPP wants to restore the 1973 Constitution, which guarantees Islamic injunctions. In an interview in Islamabad this afternoon, he said the 1973 Constitution received universal endorsement and support for its basic principles. Its restoration would fully protect any amendments made before the imposition of martial law in 1977 with the objective of strengthening the democratic and Islamic aspects of the 1973 Constitution. He said the eighth amendment was un-Islamic, as it was trying to give protection to acts that were against the principles of justice and equity enshrined in Islam. He said some of the laws were claimed to be as Islamic as (?other) ordinances, but no parliament elected on a party basis enforced them. He said the PPP government is working for the supremacy of Islamic and constitutional principles. Replying to a question, he said the government believes in the unity and stability of the country. He said people who took advantage during the dictatorial era and [word indistinct] democracy are now supporting regionalism. In fact, the PPP is the only political party ever to have received popular support in three general elections. He said: the PPP has national acclaim and the full support of the people, and I believe that under the leadership of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto it will succeed in achieving national cohesion and understanding within the democratic and parliamentary framework as provided in the constitution.

Ahmad Kamal Khan Named New Deputy Army Chief

BK1601161689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Lieutenant General Ahmad Kamal Khan has been appointed deputy chief of Army Staff. In his 35 years of meritorious services, he has been awarded Hilal-i Imtiaz, military; Sitara-i Imtiaz; and Sitara-i Wasalat.

New Oil, Gas Discoveries in Sind Province Noted

BK1601120589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] Three new oil and gas discoveries have been made by the Oil and Gas Development Corporation in Sind. These will produce about 4,000 barrels of oil and 13 million [figure as heard] cubic feet of gas per day. The federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr Jahangir Badar, told a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon that new discoveries have been made at Kunar, (Tora), and Daro—all near Hyderabad.

Sri Lanka

India 'Willing' To Consider Peace Treaty

BK1801122789 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1131 GMT 18 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 18 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian Government is willing to consider Sri Lanka's suggestion for a bilateral treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

India's high commissioner in Sri Lanka, J.N. Dixit, also conveyed that the Government of India is willing to consider the suggestion from Sri Lanka for a bilateral treaty on the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity.

A press release issued by the High Commission of India in Colombo today states, "High Commissioner Dixit called on His Excellency President Premadasa on the evening of 17th of January on his return from Delhi. The high commissioner conveyed a message from Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to h.e. [his excellency] the president. The high commissioner conveyed that the Government of India has taken note of the positive steps taken by h.e. the president to devolve powers to the north-eastern and other provincial councils in conformity with the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution and the Provincial Councils Act. It was also conveyed that further improvement of the devolution of powers responsive to effective decentralization and aspirations of the people at the provincial level would strengthen the stability and unity of Sri Lanka.

"High commissioner also conveyed that the Government of India is willing to consider the suggestion from Sri Lanka for a bilateral Indo-Sri Lanka treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation on the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity. H.E. President Premadasa indicated that a draft of the treaty would be conveyed to the Government of India in the near future.

High commissioner also conveyed that the withdrawals of some elements of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] as announced in the official statement issued by the Government of India on the 1st of January 1989 has been completed and that further withdrawals will take place within the framework of that statement".

LTTE, JVP Violence Leaves 19 Dead

BK1701143089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 17 (AFP)—At least 19 people, including six Sri Lankan and two Indian soldiers, were killed in stepped-up violence involving Tamil and Sinhalese rebels, officials sources here said Tuesday.

Suspected fighters of the dominant Tamil separatist group attacked troops guarding a highway in northern Vavuniya District Tuesday, killing three Sri Lankan soldiers and a civilian, the sources said.

They said activists believed to be of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) surprised the soldiers at a picket in Atambagahakada village by firing small arms at them from a shrub jungle.

Within hours of the attack, LTTE men exploded two powerful bombs in neighbouring Trincomalee port town, killing at least five Sinhalese civilians and wounding 16, the sources said.

The Indian High Commission (Embassy) here said two Indian soldiers died in an LTTE ambush in northern Jaffna town Tuesday. The incident came hours after Indian soldiers killed two LTTE area leaders in nearby Vavuniya jungles.

Both Sri Lankan and Indian officials reported tension in the island's Tamil-populated northern and eastern regions after the incidents.

In the island's south, anti-government Sinhalese rebels fought a gun battle with local troops in Hambantota District late Monday, killing three and losing one fighter, official sources said.

They said gunmen believed to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) ambushed the soldiers on a routine anti-rebel operation. An automatic weapon was found on the man killed by troops.

It was the first major firefight with JVP men in the island's troubled sourthern region since the government ended the five-and-a-half-year emergency rule Wednesday, the sources said.

In other developments, suspected JVP gunmen stormed a state-owned bank near here Tuesday and escaped with 90,000 dollars [currency not specified] in cash and lobbed a grenade at a ruling party politician in separate incidents Tuesday, police said.

Officials said troops cordoned off the area and mounted a search and killed one of seven gunmen who staged the daring daylight robbery at the crowded Bank of Ceylon branch in Moratuwa, just outside the capital.

The ruling party politician escaped the bomb attack, but an elderly woman was killed and four other people were seriously wounded in the incident at Kalutara, farther south, police said.

Both the J
different r VP and the LTTE are violently opposed, for
accord un easons, to a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace
troops in der which New Delhi has 45,000 to 50,000
eastern re the island's Tamil-populated northern and
ions.

Since the p
separatist eace pact, which sought to end a bloody Tamil
more than campaign, the JVP has been accused of killing
1,600 rivals and security personnel.

The group
of its supp is active in the island's south and draws much
live in the ort from among the Sinhalese majority who
area.

The LTTE
forces in t is continuing a bush war against security
plan and he north and east after repudiating the peace
peace deal refusing to surrender arms in line with the

More than
have died s 700 Indians and dozens of Sri Lankan troops
October 19 since New Delhi launched a major offensive in
87 to disarm the Tiger rebels.

'Terrorist
BK180113**' Kill 9 Tamils, 2 Indian Soldiers**
1236 GMT 889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
18 Jan 89

["OANA/p
ool" item]

[Text] Col
Tamil vill ombo, 18 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Nine
Force] sol agers and two IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping
incidents y diers were killed by terrorists in separate
esterday.

Official sou
villagers w rces told LANKAPUVATH that nine Tamil
terrorist a ere killed and seven others wounded in a
district of ack at Atagaskada in Sri Lanka's northern
Vavuniya yesterday.

They said t
set on fire hat three houses in the same village were also
by the terrorists.

The source
ists in a saf also said the IPKF apprehended 13 terror-
ehouse at Thunnikunam, also in Vavuniya.

Indian troo
apprehende ps yesterday shot dead one terrorist and
d four others in the island of Delft.

Meanwhile,
soldiers wer a report from Jaffna states that two IPKF
wounded in e killed and one junior commissioned officer
a terrorist attack.

Communique on 'Saboteurs' of School System Cited
BK1701110889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0954 GMT 17 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 17 (LANKAPUVATH)—The crime committed by a handful of enemies of the people in the recent past recent past by storming the schools and disrupting the education of the innocent students is indeed serious. In addition to the damage and destruction to school buildings, the teachers and students underwent untold hardships and pain of mind owing to such acts of sabotage, states a communique issued by the government today.

The communique further states that consequent to the will expressed by the people at the last presidential election it was possible to reopen the schools. They are now functioning satisfactorily. Towards this end the teachers, parents, the students and public servants are working with great dedication. It is the duty of everyone to continue to support and sustain this.

It is a great national tragedy to leave room once more for saboteurs to disrupt the education of the children by pasting posters of intimidation around the schools, by storming the schools and provoking and inciting the students and by causing damage to the school buildings. It is needless to state that all teachers and parents and all those living around the schools should afford protection to the schools and the students. This is a service they will be rendering for themselves.

Are we going to allow a handful of power hungry saboteurs to hold to ransom the masses and the innocent students of our country and their future progress?

It has to be emphasized that although the state of emergency has been lifted, the authorities empowered to maintain law and order will not hesitate to combat acts of sabotage and crimes against the schools and the students.

Instructions have already been issued to police officials to remain in disguise around school premises with a view to arresting and dealing with the trouble makers according to the laws of the land.